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<http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/education/article152491379.html>

## Students allege racism, protest administrators at The Evergreen State College

The Olympian

May 24, 2017

By Lisa Pemberton

Chanting “Hey-hey, ho-ho, these racist teachers have got to go,” hundreds of students filled the third floor of The Evergreen State College’s Library building Wednesday and surrounded [president George Bridges’](#) office.

Students said they were protesting institutional racism at the Olympia liberal arts college.

“It’s important. It’s necessary,” said Halla Warmer, a junior. “It’s life or death for us.”

Racial tensions have been brewing at the college in recent weeks. Some students held signs that were calling for the firing of Evergreen Police Chief Stacy Brown. Others held signs with messages such as “Black lives matter: End the injustice.”

Evergreen freshman Shayna Clayton said the college advertises itself as one that embraces diversity, but its students of color aren’t treated fairly and their needs aren’t being met.

“This institution is really (messed) up and racist,” she said. “We shouldn’t have to deal with that.”

A group of protesters sent the following statement in a news release to The Olympian: “What started out as anti-black comments on social media has turned into the dismissal of the rights of students and femmes of color, physical violence by police, and false sentencing of students protesting. Black trans disabled students are actively being sought out and confronted by campus police constantly, police are refusing to explain their actions and harassment. Students will not stand for this anymore, as students of color have never felt comfortable on campus and have not been treated equally.”

Meanwhile, college spokesman Zach Powers issued the following statement to The Olympian: “It’s been an intense and useful conversation with a group of students. The college is working with the group to address their issues. This type of conversation is being replicated across the country right now. We remain committed to providing a great education to all students.”

The protest began with a rally in the campus' central Red Square, and included a march to Bridges' office on the third floor of the library building, where students lined the hallways and promised to occupy the building until their demands were met.

Some students blocked entrances with furniture, in anticipation of a police response.

"It shouldn't have even gotten to this point," said student Linda Wilson. "It should have been dealt with a long time ago."

The crowd dispersed by about 5:45 p.m., Powers said.

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Read more here:

<http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/education/article152491379.html#storylink=cpy>  
<http://www.cooperpointjournal.com/2017/05/27/george-bridges-statement-in-response-to-student-demands-delivered-in-the-longhouse-on-friday-may-26/>

# George Bridges' Statement in Response to Student Demands

Cooper Point Journal (Evergreen student newspaper)

May 27, 2017, **Delivered in the Longhouse on Friday, May 26**

I'm George Bridges, I use he/him pronouns.

I begin our time together today by acknowledging the indigenous people of the Medicine Creek Treaty, whose land was stolen and on which the college stands. I would like to acknowledge the Squaxin people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to elders past and present of the Squaxin Island Tribe. I extend that respect to other Native people present.

In response to Native Student Alliance requests, we commit to opening every event with this acknowledgement.

We also received requests from our Native students late yesterday. We discussed many issues they seek to have addressed. We are working on these requests, too. In our meeting, I committed that Native American students, staff, and faculty can sustainably collect, gather, and harvest the natural resources from any of The Evergreen State College's lands for ceremonial purposes with legal impunity and asking no permission. Their additional requests include but are not limited to important items such as: funding and resources for the recruitment and retaining of Native students; paid positions to support the Native Student Alliance; a pre-orientation retreat for new and continuing Native students; funding for a Native American graduation; exemption from the catering and cooking prohibitions so that Native students may cook and eat Native foods in freedom.

These will be the focus of much work and commitment in the weeks ahead.

We are grateful to the courageous students who have voiced their concerns. We understand that the demands presented are evolving. We have worked intensely on this in the past two days. Our responses, too, will evolve to ensure we are attending to the needs you present. Our documents must live and be living, changing with additional issues and concerns as they arise. This work never ends.

We have heard from students very clearly that they experience racism on campus that interferes with their education. We acknowledge that the status quo isn't acceptable. We don't know all the answers. We want to come together with you to learn from your experience, to build solutions, and to take action. We are grateful for this catalyst to expedite the work to which we are jointly committed.

For a long time, we've been working on the concerns you've raised and acknowledge that our results have fallen short. We should have done more to engage students in our work on equity and inclusion. This week, you are inviting us into the struggle you have taken up. We share your goals and together we can reach them.

I'll present this afternoon on our responses and action plan. Following our gathering, a message with the details that I present today will be sent via email and posted on the web. I hope you will read, digest, reflect, and come back next week for further dialogue. I invite you to respond in writing, individually, and in group meetings. We'll create space for your input. Let's keep the conversation alive.

We acknowledge that students want action, not just conversation. In this room we can only talk. I will talk about actions that are being taken immediately. We'll have some food available around 6pm; we'll eat together and I hope the conversations will continue informally.

To ensure that students are able to enjoy an Evergreen education free from discrimination or bias, we commit to taking the following actions. I'll structure my comments under the headings in the list of demands provided on May 24.

**"We demand that no changes to the student code of conduct be made without democratic student consent."**

Immediate actions:

As of today, we're not contemplating any action associated with the demonstrations of the last two weeks, but we can't control what complaints we might receive. If we receive complaints, we'll need to follow up on them.

Next steps:

We reaffirm our commitment to continuing our work to revise the student conduct code, with significant contributions from students at the center of the process.

Students will work on the code with staff over the summer, as well as work on other strategic initiatives. Students will be paid for their labor. Further consultation will occur with students in the fall.

All changes being made will be accessible and transparent to the campus community and the document will be a living document that will be adapted over time in order to serve evolving student needs.

By the end of next week, we will identify the time commitment requested of the students involved in this summer work as well as the compensation for this work.

Students will select the peers that will be involved in the process.

The current code of conduct remains in place until a revised code is developed. With this timeline in place, a revised code would be submitted that adheres to state law and our campus needs by winter 2018.

**“We demand that Officer Timothy O’Dell be fired and suspended without pay while an investigation take place.”**

**“We demand the immediate firing of Andrea Seabert Olsen from all Evergreen State College positions.”**

**“We demand Bret Weinstein be suspended immediately without pay but all students receive full credit.”**

We do not and will not fire any employees in response to a request. We do take complaints seriously. We have a college non-discrimination policy which applies to all members of our community. Following any complaint of discrimination, we will conduct a full investigation. If it is found that discrimination occurred, action is taken. The nature of that action is not released because in order to protect the privacy of those involved. We recommit to the progressive discipline processes established with our union bargaining units and the State of Washington.

Immediate action:

We must increase our capacity to investigate instances of alleged discrimination. Therefore, we have decided to increase the college’s Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Officer to full time today. In addition, if we need to hire outside investigators, we will. We will provide information about how this process works and who to contact on all aspects of the college’s website pertaining to students, faculty, and staff. We commit to communicating the process for reporting discrimination to all students at the start of every quarter and at the beginning of every academic year.

**“We demand the immediate disarming of police services and no expansion of police facilities or services at any point in the future.”**

Next steps:

The Police Services Community Review Board will review police response to calls and complaints received on May 14 and May 16. A timeline for this review will be finalized by the end of next week. As you know, the Review Board doesn’t include individuals from the President’s Office or Police Services. Many of whom on the board are people of color. Annual training for police officers will be expanded because of the responsibility they hold and the critical services they provide to the college. The training will include techniques for safe and non-threatening engagement with students, addressing anti-black racism, de-escalation, minimizing use of force, serving trans and queer students, sexual assault response and

responding to the access and special needs of students with disabilities. Private funding will be sought to support training.

We intend to retain a campus police force that understands and is responsive to the unique needs of our college campus.

**“We demand mandatory sensitivity and cultural competency training for faculty, staff, administrators, and student employees.”**

Immediate action:

The United Faculty of Evergreen and the College have executed a memorandum of understanding committing to mandatory training. I’d like to Invite Grace Huerta to speak about the agreement we’ve reached today. It reads:

“Now, therefore, the parties agree as follows:

“We share a mutual interest in ensuring that all Evergreen students receive an education that is culturally competent, culturally relevant and free from the negative effects of bias.

“To achieve this, we recognize that Evergreen faculty members must have access to, and take advantage of, professional development opportunities to address subjects including but not limited to institutional racism, and the needs of students of color, LGBTQIA students, undocumented students, victims of sexual assault, and students with disabilities.

“We commit to annual mandatory training for all faculty beginning in fall 2017.

“This agreement was ratified today by both parties”.

Next steps:

Required training for all staff currently includes a review of the college’s non-discrimination policy. We commit to providing cultural competency, sensitivity, and anti-bias training in the training required of all staff. By requiring this training for all staff, we will also ensure that all search committee members are trained. We’re launching staff training in the fall and offering it throughout the year.

**“We demand the creation of an equity center.”**

Immediate action:

Today we commit to establishing a new and expanded equity and multicultural center with design plans finalized for student review by the beginning of fall quarter this year. You will have the space that you seek and deserve.

Next steps:

The design of the center will be informed by students. Over the summer, we seek to hire students to design and plan for a new equity and multicultural center in collaboration with staff. They will be compensated for their time. A final plan for implementation will be developed following the work completed this summer.

**“We demand for the coordinator of the Trans & Queer Center to be permanently hired full time.”**

Immediate action:

Prior to this week’s events, we had initiated the process to appoint Amira Caluya on a permanent basis as Coordinator of the Trans & Queer Center. We expedited this process and confirm that they have been appointed on a permanent basis effective today.

**“We demand the creation of a position that will support undocumented students.”**

Next steps:

We have requested funding for a retention specialist to serve undocumented students from the Legislature. Once this is funded, we will recruit for this position immediately.

**“We demand that the video created for Day of Absence and Day of Presence that was stolen by white supremacists and edited to expose and ridicule the students and staff be taken down by the administration by this Friday.”**

Next steps:

Based on conversations with the Attorney General’s office, the most likely course of action requires an investigation. We commit to launching an extensive forensic investigation of the theft of this video and to determining who stole it from the student. If that investigation yields a suspect, we will seek criminal charges against the individual in consultation with the Attorney General.

Other personnel decisions

We have heard you about your concerns. We truly have. In order to fulfill our commitment to you, the knowledge and life experience of our leadership team needs to change. We acknowledge the lack of diversity among the college’s senior leadership team and affirm that people of color must be involved in decisions that affect the college and our community.

Immediate action:

We’ve welcomed three talented candidates for the role of Vice President/Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion to campus. I’m glad you participated in conversation with them and I seek your recommendations on whom we should hire.

I'm announcing today that in addition to the VP/VP, we will be recruiting a new leader to oversee student enrollment and retention at the College. Our longstanding Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services, Steve Hunter, has served Evergreen for 41 years in many ways. His retirement creates an opportunity to recruit new leadership.

The person we hire will be appointed to the senior leadership team and will focus, among other things, on student retention across all aspects of the college from the moment a student comes into contact with Evergreen to the point at which they graduate. I seek your involvement in the recruitment and hiring of that person so that we are assured we appoint someone whose attention is directly focused on the needs and success of underrepresented students at Evergreen.

We are hiring Dr. Stone Thomas as a senior advisor to the President and a member of the senior leadership team of the college to begin next week. Stone was among the first African American leaders of Evergreen, as well as the president of another institution. For 40 years, Dr. Thomas diligently supported learners in a number of roles including Coordinator of Upward Bound, Director of Educational Support Programs and Dean of Student Development, Vice President of Student Development and Campus President. In 2011 Dr. Thomas retired as Campus President from Tarrant County College South Campus. In tandem with his administrative appointments, Dr. Thomas served as an adjunct faculty for 12 years at The Evergreen State College.

Next steps:

We will increase the budget in First Peoples Multicultural Advising Services to address student wages and staffing and to ensure that the scholar's pre-orientation program is accessible to more students. The resources will be available for use effective July 1.

It is critical to have student voice involved in a variety of initiatives over the summer including the conduct code, summer hiring, new student orientation, developing a communication plan for next year, and work on the equity center. We will hire for three to four positions by the end of the academic year.

Closing

In closing, I want to invite you to reflect and we will reconvene next week for additional conversations. What I've shared today will be circulated electronically.

Free speech must be fostered and encouraged. Every faculty member, every student, every staff member must have the freedom to speak openly about their views. We are an institution dedicated to learning. Unless we continually seek to listen and to understand, rather than listening to react, we will not fulfill the mission of The Evergreen State College.

Discrimination of any form is not acceptable or tolerated on our campus. We must treat each other with respect and care. Let's acknowledge the unique, individual roles that each of us plays at Evergreen.

Let me reiterate my gratitude for the passion and courage you have shown me and others. I want every one of you to feel safe on this campus and be able to learn in a supportive environment free from discrimination or intimidation.

I welcome your questions. I hope we can break bread together and continue the conversation informally.

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## The blasphemy case against Bret Weinstein, and its four lessons for professors

The Heterodox Academy

by [Jonathan Haidt](#) | May 27, 2017 | [Faculty](#), [Free Speech and Censorship](#), [video](#) | [181 comments](#)

In the wake of the violence at Middlebury and Berkeley, and in the aftermath of the faculty mob that coalesced to [condemn gender studies professor Rebecca Tuvel](#), many commentators have begun analyzing the new [campus culture of intersectionality](#) as a [form of fundamentalist religion](#) including public rituals with more than a passing resemblance to [witch-hunts](#). The second-truest case of these dynamics that I have ever seen is currently underway at Evergreen State College, in Olympia, Washington. ([The truest case was the protests, hunger strike, and struggle session](#) in response to one word in a well-intentioned email from Dean Mary Spellman, at Claremont McKenna College in 2015.)

The accused witch is Heterodox Academy member [Bret Weinstein](#), a professor of biology. On May 23, a group of Evergreen students disrupted a class he was teaching, surrounded him, cursed at him, screamed at him, called him a racist, and called for him to resign or be fired. [Campus police have told Weinstein that for his own physical safety](#), he should stay off campus for a few days. He held his Thursday class in an off-campus park.

What did Weinstein do to cause this reaction? He violated blasphemy laws. Here's how.

For several years, Evergreen has held a "day of absence" in which students, staff, and faculty of color are invited to stay away from campus and take part in discussions about racism and other intersectional issues, organized by the school's [Director of First Peoples Multicultural Advising Services](#), Rashida Love. But this year, the event was inverted; people of color were invited to stay on campus while all white people were asked to stay away from campus. White professors were asked to not teach their classes. White students were asked to not attend their classes.

You may or may not think this is a good idea. But do you think that all professors should simply accept it and do as Ms. Love asks? Or do you think that it should be permissible for a professor to question the policy – perhaps even object to it? Professor Weinstein objected. Here is a screenshot showing the full text of his email:

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From: Weinstein, Bret  
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:50 PM  
To: Love, Rashida  
Cc: All Staff & Faculty DL  
Subject: Re: Invitation and schedules for Day of Absence/Day of Presence 2017

Dear Rashida,

When you first described the new structure for Day of Absence / Day of Presence at a past faculty meeting (where no room was left for questions), I thought I must have misunderstood what you said. Later emails seemed to muddy the waters further, while inviting commitments to participate. I now see from the boldfaced text in this email that I had indeed understood your words correctly.

There is a huge difference between a group or coalition deciding to voluntarily absent themselves from a shared space in order to highlight their vital and under-appreciated roles (the theme of the Douglas Turner Ward play *Day of Absence*, as well as the recent Women's Day walkout), and a group or coalition encouraging another group to go away. The first is a forceful call to consciousness which is, of course, crippling to the logic of oppression. The second is a show of force, and an act of oppression in and of itself.

You may take this letter as a formal protest of this year's structure, and you may assume I will be on campus on the Day of Absence. I would encourage others to put phenotype aside and reject this new formulation, whether they have 'registered' for it already or not. On a college campus, one's right to speak--or to be--must never be based on skin color.

If there was interest in a public presentation and discussion of race through a scientific / evolutionary lens, I would be quite willing to organize such an event (it is material I have taught in my own programs, and guest lectured on at Evergreen and elsewhere). Everyone would be equally welcome and encouraged to attend such a forum, irrespective of ethnicity, belief structure, native language, political leanings, or position at the college. My only requirement would be that people attend with an open mind, and a willingness to act in good faith.

If there is interest in such an event, please let me know at [bret.weinstein@gmail.com](mailto:bret.weinstein@gmail.com).

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In response to this email, and to Weinstein's refusal to take part in the "day of absence/presence" (by staying away because of his race), a group of around 50 students marched to his class to disrupt it. Here is a video of the confrontation:

As with the [famous videos](#) of students [confronting Nicholas Christakis](#) at Yale, the professor tries to hold a dialogue, but students scream obscenities and slurs at him. They make it clear that they are not interested in discussion or dialogue; they accuse him of racism and demand that he apologize and resign. Later that day, the protesters occupied the library; they also found the president of the university, George Bridges, and issued demands to him, including that he fire Weinstein. [The video of their confrontation with the president](#) is hard to watch — they scream obscenities at the president of their university, and tell him to "shut the f... up".

It is important to remember that the act that triggered the Yale protests in November 2015 was also a professor questioning—in a polite and reasoned way—a diversity policy. Now is a good time to go back and read [Erika Christakis's email to students at Silliman college](#) asking whether the university's heavy-handed guidelines about Halloween costumes was really appropriate. In retrospect, we can see that

while there was not a hint of racism in Erika Christakis's email, the mere act of questioning a policy constituted blasphemy and justified the students' demands for the punishment and expulsion of both Erika and her husband. Few people understood this back in 2015.

Similarly with last month's witch hunt at Duke, [where Paul Griffiths, a chaired professor of theology objected to the email sent out by the chair encouraging all faculty members to participate in diversity training](#). He dared to say in public what many faculty know and say in private about diversity training. Once again there was [no racism in his email](#), but the mere act of objecting to the policy was taken as evidence of racism, which must be punished. (He soon resigned, under pressure from disciplinary proceedings launched against him by the administration.)

There are several lessons that American professors can draw from these three events:

- 1) Never object to a diversity policy publicly.\* It is no longer permitted. You may voice concerns in a private conversation, but if you do it in a public way, you are inviting a visit from a mob or punishment from an administrator.
- 2) Do not assume that being politically progressive will protect you (as Weinstein and the Christakis found out). Whatever your politics, you are eventually going to say or do something that will be interpreted incorrectly and ungenerously. Your intentions don't matter (as [Dean Spellman found out at CMC](#).) This is especially true if your university offers students [training in the detection of microaggressions](#).
- 3) If a mob comes for you, there is a good chance that the president of your university will side with the mob and validate its narrative (as the presidents at Yale and Evergreen have done, although the presidents at Middlebury and [Claremont McKenna](#) did not).
- 4) If a mob comes for you, the great majority of its members will be non-violent. However, given the new standard operating procedure (which [I described in a recent Chronicle article entitled "Intimidation is the New Normal"](#)) you must assume that one or more of its members is willing to use violence against you, and you can assume that many members of the mob believe that violence against you is [morally justifiable](#).

As political passions and political polarization continue to rise, Intimidation and physical violence seem to be becoming more common as a part of our political life. Off campus, such tactics are widely used by extremists on the right, as well as the left. And not just by extremists — by a [new member of Congress too](#). I generally oppose zero-tolerance policies, but if we are to have one, it should be for violence and intimidation on campus. Many faculty and students report being afraid to speak up openly and honestly on many issues, even in seminar classes. What will presidents and administrators do about it? What will alumni and trustees do to put pressure on presidents and administrators to do something about it? When will the faculty begin to stand up en masse?

There is one hopeful sign: in the wake of the Middlebury violence we had a surge of new applicants at Heterodox Academy, raising our membership by 20 percent. [More than 800 professors](#) from across the political spectrum HAVE stood up and said that they support viewpoint diversity at universities. Together, we are developing tools that will, in the long run, change the campus climate and make more room for dissent and open discussion. (See in particular our [Fearless Speech Index](#), our [Guide to Colleges](#), and our [Viewpoint Diversity Experience](#)).

We think we can turn things around and end the witch-hunt mentality. Fundamentalists can't survive in an open marketplace of ideas. If you are a professor or a concerned grad student, please [join us](#).

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#### Post Scripts:

- \*1. I am not really urging professors to keep quiet. I am trying to dramatize the growing authoritarianism of some campuses on which calm, reasoned questioning of the sort the Weinstein engaged in is now likely to be punished. I hope that professors will in fact model their behavior on Weinstein. But I would suggest that in the future they consider finding a few others who agree with them and are willing to co-sign the email. It will be harder for a university to punish or fire a group of professors than a single professor.
2. New video is emerging frequently of the events that occurred after the protesters left Weinstein's class. [Here is a 7 minute clip that someone edited](#) to show the most dramatic and angry moments of the day, many from a meeting at 4pm that day, a few hours after the initial confrontation with president Bridges, shown above. Can anyone find a video of the full session, unedited? Thanks to commenter Pjc below who found [this hour-long video of the main discussion](#) session that was held at 4pm on May 23.
3. If you want a deeper look into Weinstein's politics and character, look at [this footage of him being interviewed](#) by a local TV station. He is extremely measured, diplomatic, and elliptical in what he says, until they turn the camera off. Start watching at the 11 minute mark. At 11:20 he asks "is that thing still on?" When assured that the TV camera is off, he relaxes and speaks more openly. But someone in the small crowd watching the interview was recording everything. If you can find a hint of racism in the way Weinstein speaks when he relaxes, please let me know where it is. The man is an extremely thoughtful, principled progressive.
4. If you wonder why these witch hunts seem to happen so often at highly progressive schools, then this is a good time to read [the amazing 1969 prophecy in which Judge Macklin Fleming argued](#) that the very policies Yale Law School implemented in response to protests by black students were likely to make future black students feel more angry and marginalized. The set of policies widely implemented to increase diversity may be backfiring — raising the raw numbers of people in various categories, but doing so in ways that increase tensions and harm the very students they were trying to help.
5. For a view of events that differs from Weinstein's, see [this critique by another professor at Evergreen, Peter Dorman](#).

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*Opinions expressed are those of the author(s). Publication does not imply endorsement by Heterodox Academy or any of its members. We welcome your comments below. Feel free to challenge and disagree, but please try to model the sort of respectful and constructive criticism that makes viewpoint diversity most valuable. Comments that include obscenity or aggression are likely to be deleted.*

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article153151069.html>

## Evergreen professor Bret Weinstein appears on Fox News after student protest

The News Tribune

May 28, 2017,

By Rolf Boone

A biology professor at the center of a recent protest about alleged racism at The Evergreen State College [appeared on Fox News](#) to explain the controversy.

Appearing on a show hosted by Tucker Carlson — in a segment called “campus craziness” — Bret Weinstein [talked about last week’s protest](#), including how students blocked campus security, and later gathered in the school’s library building for a meeting “far crazier than the video you just showed.”

The video showed about 50 students confronting Weinstein and demanding that he resign.

Weinstein said he did not call campus police after he was confronted, but someone did out of concern for his safety.

“They imagine that I am a racist and that I am teaching racism in the classroom,” said Weinstein about the Evergreen student protesters. “And that has caused them to imagine that I have no right to speak, and that I am harming students by the very act of teaching them.”

The [recent protests have been triggered by a series of events](#), according to The Cooper Point Journal, Evergreen’s student newspaper. Among those triggers they cite Weinstein emails, and an incident May 14 in which campus police allegedly woke up, held and questioned two black students about an argument with another student. That argument was apparently about racism.

In [one of those emails](#) — shared by The Cooper Point Journal — Weinstein questioned the school’s “day of absence.” Previously, according to The Cooper Point Journal, it was a day in which students of color apparently left the campus and gathered elsewhere, but this year’s request was for “all white faculty and students (to) remain absent from campus.”

Weinstein wrote:

“There is a huge difference between a group or coalition deciding to voluntarily absent themselves from a shared space in order to highlight their vital and under-appreciated roles (the theme of the Douglas Turner Ward play Day of Absence, as well as the recent Women’s Day walkout), and a group or coalition encouraging another group to go away. The first is a forceful call to consciousness which is, of course, crippling to the logic of oppression. The second is a show of force, and an act of oppression in and of itself.”

In response to the recent controversy, Evergreen President George Bridges [issued a statement on Saturday](#).

He wrote that “discrimination of any form is not acceptable or tolerated on our campus” and “free speech must be fostered and encouraged.”

But he took issue with some of the protesters’ approach.

“We may disagree with each other,” his statement reads. “However, disagreement is one thing; dehumanization is another. Over the week, a few members of the Evergreen community have used traditional and social media to malign, mock, or misrepresent those with whom they disagree.

“While the majority of students, faculty, and staff are fully engaged in the teaching and learning work of the college, a few are on a destructive course of action that hurts themselves and gives a distorted and false impression of our community.

“This behavior is wrong and must stop. It does not represent us, and we will not allow it to define us.”

After Wednesday’s protest, Weinstein was told by Evergreen’s police chief that it was not safe for him to be on campus, [according to a King 5 TV report](#). As a result, Weinstein held a class in a downtown Olympia park on Thursday.

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Read more here:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article153151069.html#storylink=cpy>

## Lawmakers propose defunding Evergreen State amid protests

Campus Reform

May 30, 2017

[Peter Van Voorhis](#)

California Campus Correspondent

- **State lawmakers in Washington are fed up with the antics of Evergreen State College, and plan to introduce legislation Thursday to privatize the left-leaning institution.**
- **Led by Republican State Rep. Matt Manweller, the legislators are considering revoking \$24 million in state funding, but vow that financial aid will remain available to students.**
- **Evergreen State students held a protest recently after a liberal professor questioned plans to ask white students and faculty to leave campus during a day of diversity programming.**

State lawmakers in Washington are fed up with the antics of Evergreen State College, and plan to introduce legislation Thursday to privatize the left-leaning institution.

[As Campus Reform initially reported](#), hundreds of students marched through campus last week demanding the resignation of Professor Bret Weinstein, who had questioned the school's decision to ask white people to leave campus for a day of diversity programming in an all-staff email.

"Like all radical movements in history, this movement is also starting to turn on itself and eat its own."

In previous years, non-white students and faculty members voluntarily left campus to attend diversity workshops while their white counterparts conducted their own programming on-campus, but this year the format was flipped in response to complaints that non-white students feel unwelcome on campus in the wake of Donald Trump's election.

Despite the protesters' profanity-laced denunciations of him, school President George Bridges praised their "passion and courage" while capitulating to demands that they be excused from homework assignments for the duration of their demonstration.

The bill, spearheaded by Republican State Representative Matt Manweller, will be introduced alongside a letter to the state Human Rights Commission requesting an investigation into potential civil rights violations on campus surrounding the incident.

Manweller and his colleagues are also discussing the possibility of revoking \$24,000,000 in annual funding to Evergreen State College, but pledge that all students on campus will remain eligible for full financial aid from the state, should the bill become law.

"These students and their administration are trying to undo the Civil Rights Movement. They are trying to re-institute a Jim Crow approach to education that Americans rejected over 50 years ago," Manweller said in an exclusive interview with *Campus Reform*. "We must never go back to a segregated society—whether it be drinking fountains, buses, or school buildings."

Manweller made clear that he places the blame for Evergreen's current situation squarely on the shoulders of administrators, arguing that they created the conditions for controversy through their unquestioning embrace of social justice and failure to condemn the excesses of student protesters.

"It is incredibly frightening that the administration at Evergreen would tacitly support Brown-shirt tactics we have not seen since 1930s Germany. That they would allow students to threaten professors and other students based on their race is simply horrifying," Manweller continued. "The administration bears direct responsibility for this situation. They hired the professors who have elevated the pseudo-science of 'social justice' to a religious movement. Now all dissent is crushed by threats of violence or actual violence."

Manweller told *Campus Reform* that he is optimistic about the bill's prospects, asserting that the internal contradictions of the leftist movement on campus will be its eventual undoing.

"Like all radical movements in history, this movement is also starting to turn on itself and eat its own," he said. "Professor Weinstein is a liberal professor who teaches liberal values. Now those students have turned on him like they have on so many other professors around the country."

**Follow the author of this article on Twitter: [@RepublicanPeter](#)**

<http://www.campusreform.org/?ID=9245>

<http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/bret-weinstein-and-the-cowardice-of-college-leaders/19885#.WUhOgemQy71>

## Bret Weinstein and the cowardice of college leaders

Spiked (British online publication)

**May 30, 2017**

By [Steve Bremner](#)

writer

*Why did Evergreen State College cave in to its intolerant students?*

Bret Weinstein, professor of biology at Evergreen State College in Washington, has what many would view as impeccably progressive credentials. A self-proclaimed man of the left, he supported Bernie Sanders in the US presidential campaign and speaks the language of contemporary US anti-racism. But this hasn't stopped him from becoming the latest college professor to be attacked by a mob of students, calling him a racist and demanding his resignation.

Evergreen has, for several years, held a 'day of absence' in which black and ethnic minority (BME) groups are encouraged to stay away from campus to take part in discussions about race and other intersectional issues. This year, the director of the First Peoples Multicultural Advising Services introduced a new proposal. Instead of BME groups leaving campus, all white people should be encouraged to stay away from campus, and all white professors should not teach their classes.

Weinstein responded to this instruction with a civil email. He argued that students voluntarily not attending classes as a form of protest was one thing, but banning them from campus is a 'show of force, and an act of oppression in and of itself'. He also said that the right to speak should 'never be based on skin colour' and declared that he would defy the policy and remain on campus during the 'day of absence'.

His reasoned and principled refusal to cooperate with such a racially and politically divisive proposal unleashed fury among students. Attacks on professors have happened at other colleges, such as at Yale, but the furore aimed at Weinstein was even more extreme than previous incidents.

Footage of the confrontation between Weinstein and students reveals a kind of mass hysteria. Weinstein himself described it as being like 'Phnom Penh 1975', in reference to the violent forced re-education of intellectuals by the Khmer Rouge. Protesting students invaded his classroom and confronted him. Weinstein tried to propose discussion as a way forward, but

was told: 'This is not a discussion.' He then tried to argue for 'the truth' – the response was derisive laughter.

This mob, of approximately 200 students, was then allowed to take control of the campus, after the administration ordered campus police to stand down and barricaded staff in the library and administration block. Weinstein was later advised to not return to campus for his own safety. All of this, just for arguing that people should not be stopped from speaking on the basis of skin colour.

The Evergreen College president, George Bridges, subsequently called a meeting with the obvious intention of placating the protesters. Video footage shows him introducing himself with the words, 'I'm George Bridges, I use he/him pronouns'. He proceeds to describe the protesters as 'courageous', making concession after concession to the mob. The tone of the meeting is entirely cowed and apologetic, as if it is the college that is at fault.

In extraordinary scenes caught on camera, a student approaches Bridges while he is speaking, and coaches him to keep his hands by his sides while speaking – presumably because raising his hands is too authoritative. The intervening student is cheered on by other students, and Bridges does not appear to resist. At another point, students shriek for Weinstein to be sacked. Bridges' response? He says he cannot say anything while a complaint is being investigated. The college has now issued a half-hearted statement, asserting that the issues at stake are 'incredibly complex'.

Bridges' cowardice reveals the real problem here: a crisis of adult authority. The university has clearly given in to the idea that BME students should be treated differently. This special treatment has, in turn, nurtured the idea that BME students are victims – and that this status entitles them to institutional protection. The protesting students at Evergreen are simply reading from a script that the university has written for them.

**Steve Bremner** is a writer and teacher based in London.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-campus-mob-came-for-meand-you-professor-could-be-next-1496187482>

## The Campus Mob Came for Me—and You, Professor, Could Be Next

Wall Street Journal

**May 30, 2017**

***Whites were asked to leave for a 'Day of Absence.' I objected. Then 50 yelling students crashed my class.***

*By Bret Weinstein*

*Olympia, Wash.*

I was not expecting to hold my biology class in a public park last week. But then the chief of our college police department told me she could not protect me on campus. Protestors were searching cars for an unspecified individual—likely me—and her officers had been told to stand down, against her judgment, by the college president.

Racially charged, anarchic protests have engulfed Evergreen State College, a small, public liberal-arts institution where I have taught since 2003. In a widely disseminated video of the first recent protest on May 23, an angry mob of about 50 students disrupted my class, called me a racist, and demanded that I resign. My “racist” offense? I had challenged coercive segregation by race. Specifically, I had objected to a planned “Day of Absence” in which white people were asked to leave campus on April 12.

Day of Absence is a tradition at Evergreen. In previous years students and faculty of color organized a day on which they met off campus—a symbolic act based on the Douglas Turner Ward play in which all the black residents of a Southern town fail to show up one morning. This year, however, the formula was reversed. “White students, staff and faculty will be invited to leave the campus for the day’s activities,” the student newspaper [reported](#), adding that the decision was reached after people of color “voiced concern over feeling as if they are unwelcome on campus, following the 2016 election.”

In March I objected in an email to all staff and faculty. “There is a huge difference between a group or coalition deciding to voluntarily absent themselves from a shared space in order to highlight their vital and under-appreciated roles . . . and a group or coalition encouraging another group to go away,” I wrote. “On a college campus, one’s right to speak—or to be—must never be based on skin color.”

My email was published by the student newspaper, and Day of Absence came and went almost without incident. The protest of my class emerged seemingly out of the blue more than a month later. Evergreen has slipped into madness. You don't need the news to tell you that—the protesters' own videos will do. But those clips reveal neither the path that led to this psychosis, nor the cautionary nature of the tale for other campuses.

Evergreen is arguably the most radical college in the country—and while it does lean far to the left in a political sense, it is the school's pedagogical structure to which I refer. Rather than placing students in many separate classes, most of our curriculum is integrated into full-time programs that may run the entire academic year. This structure allows students and professors to come to know each other very well, such that Evergreen can deliver a deep, personally tailored education that would be impossible elsewhere. When it works well, it is unlike anything else. Last week's breakdown of institutional order is far from an indictment of our founder's wisdom.

Rather, the protests resulted from a tension that has existed throughout the entire American academy for decades: The button-down empirical and deductive fields, including all the hard sciences, have lived side by side with "critical theory," postmodernism and its perception-based relatives. Since the creation in 1960s and '70s of novel, justice-oriented fields, these incompatible worldviews have repelled one another. The faculty from these opposing perspectives, like blue and red voters, rarely mix in any context where reality might have to be discussed. For decades, the uneasy separation held, with the factions enduring an unhappy marriage for the good of the (college) kids.

Things began to change at Evergreen in 2015, when the school hired a new president, George Bridges. His vision as an administrator involved reducing professorial autonomy, increasing the size of his administration, and breaking apart Evergreen's full-time programs. But the faculty, which plays a central role in the college's governance, would never have agreed to these changes. So Mr. Bridges tampered with the delicate balance between the sciences and humanities by, in effect, arming the postmoderns.

The particular mechanism was arcane, but it involved an Equity Council established in 2016. The council advanced [a plan](#) that few seem to have read, even now—but that faculty were nonetheless told we must accept without discussion. It would shift the college "from a diversity agenda" to an "equity agenda" by, among other things, requiring an "equity justification" for every faculty hire.

The plan and the way it is being forced on the college are both deeply authoritarian, and the attempt to mandate equality of outcome is unwise in the extreme. Equality of outcome is a discredited concept, failing on both logical and historical grounds, as anyone knows who has studied the misery of the 20th century. It wouldn't have withstood 20 minutes of reasoned discussion.

This presented traditional independent academic minds with a choice: Accept the plan and let the intellectual descendants of Critical Race Theory dictate the bounds of permissible thought to the sciences and the rest of the college, or insist on discussing the plan's shortcomings and be branded as racists. Most of my colleagues chose the former, and the protesters are in the process of articulating the terms. I dissented and ended up teaching in the park.

*Mr. Weinstein is a biology professor at the Evergreen State College.*

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-campus-mob-came-for-meand-you-professor-could-be-next-1496187482>

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<http://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/2017/06/01/racist-protests-shut-down-evergreen-college-as-lawmakers-look-to-strip-funding.html>

## 'Racist' protests shut down Evergreen College as lawmakers look to strip funding

Fox Business

**June 1, 2017**

Lawmakers in Washington State are looking to strip funds from Evergreen State College in the wake of chaotic, radical protests that shut down the campus on Thursday.

"In response to a direct threat to campus safety, the college is closing immediately for the day. All are asked to leave campus or return to residence halls for instructions," the college stated on its website.

This comes on the same day that Republican Representative Matt Manweller announced a three-pronged legislative response to recent incidents at the college, which followed one white professor's refusal to leave campus for a "Day of Absence," requiring all white students and faculty leave the premises for a day of diversity classes.

Manweller will introduce a bill to privatize the college over the course of five years. He will also order an investigation into whether any civil rights laws have been violated and push to remove \$24 million in capital funding currently allocated under the state budget for Evergreen College.

"Colleges and universities need to be a place that is open to debate and the free exchange of ideas regardless of skin color, religion or ethnicity. Public money should never be spent on institutions that advocate for openly racist policies," Rep. Manweller said in a statement to FOX Business.

The campus erupted into chaos last week after Professor Bret Weinstein emailed student organizers, refusing to exit the premises on the Day of Absence. Traditionally, students voluntarily participating in the activity attended workshops off campus while other students remained on site.

"On a college campus, one's right to speak—or to be—must never be based on skin color," Weinstein wrote, saying group organizers could take his email as a "formal protest of this year's structure."

Since then disturbing videos have been released of students screaming and cursing at administrators, and there have been repeated calls for Weinstein's resignation, with students asserting his response is racist. Weinstein was told by police last week he was no longer safe on campus and was forced to hold class in a nearby park.

"These students, in their ignorance and anger, are trying to undo the civil rights movement and return us to a Jim Crow era of education policies," Rep. Manweller told FOX Business. "We said no to segregated education 50 years ago and we're saying no today."

Similar instances of attempts to stifle free speech have taken place at college campuses across the country. One notable instance at Berkeley College earlier this year involved the [cancelling of a](#)

[speech Opens a New Window](#).by controversial Breitbart News editor Milo Yiannopoulos amid violent protests, which caused President Donald Trump to get involved.

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If U.C. Berkeley does not allow free speech and practices violence on innocent people with a different point of view - NO FEDERAL FUNDS?

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Berkeley issued an apologetic statement after the incident, but since then conservative firebrands like Ann Coulter have had speeches canceled as well.

This issue has become so widespread, Harvard University President Drew Gilpin Faust took it up during her commencement address to graduates, saying “It is not about the freedom to out-shout others while everyone has their fingers in their ears. For free speech to flourish, we must build an environment where everyone takes responsibility for the right not just to speak, but to hear and be heard, where everyone assumes the responsibility to treat others with dignity and respect.”

Evergreen State College did not immediately respond to FOX Business' request for comment.

## When the Left Turns on Its Own

New York Times

June 1, 2017

Bari Weiss

### ON CAMPUS

Bret Weinstein is a biology professor at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., who supported Bernie Sanders, admiringly retweets Glenn Greenwald and was an outspoken supporter of the Occupy Wall Street movement.

You could be forgiven for thinking that Mr. Weinstein, who identifies himself as “deeply progressive,” is just the kind of teacher that students at one of the most left-wing colleges in the country would admire. Instead, he has become a victim of an increasingly widespread campaign by leftist students against anyone who dares challenge ideological orthodoxy on campus.

This professor’s crime? He had the gall to challenge a day of racial segregation.

A bit of background: The “Day of Absence” is an Evergreen tradition that stretches back to the 1970s. As Mr. Weinstein explained on Wednesday in *The Wall Street Journal*, “in previous years students and faculty of color organized a day on which they met off campus — a symbolic act based on the Douglas Turner Ward play in which all the black residents of a Southern town fail to show up one morning.” This year, the script was flipped: “White students, staff and faculty will be invited to leave campus for the day’s activities,” reported the student newspaper on the change. The decision was made after students of color “voiced concern over feeling as if they are unwelcome on campus, following the 2016 election.”

Mr. Weinstein thought this was wrong. The biology professor said as much in a letter to Rashida Love, the school’s Director of First Peoples Multicultural Advising Services. “There is a huge difference between a group or coalition deciding to voluntarily absent themselves from a shared space in order to highlight their vital and under-appreciated roles,” he wrote, “and a group or coalition encouraging another group to go away.”

The first instance, he argued, “is a forceful call to consciousness.”

The second “is a show of force, and an act of oppression in and of itself.” In other words, what purported to be a request for white students and professors to leave campus was something more than that. It was an act of moral bullying — to stay on campus as a white person would mean to be tarred as a racist.

Reasonable people can debate whether or not social experiments like a Day of Absence are enlightening. Perhaps there's a case to be made that a white-free day could be a useful way to highlight the lack of racial diversity, particularly at a proudly progressive school like Evergreen.

Yet reasonable debate has made itself absent at Evergreen.

For expressing his view, Mr. Weinstein was confronted outside his classroom last week by a group of some 50 students insisting he was a racist. The video of that exchange — “You’re supporting white supremacy” is one of the more milquetoast quotes — must be seen to be believed. It will make anyone who believes in the liberalizing promise of higher education quickly lose heart. When a calm Mr. Weinstein tries to explain that his only agenda is “the truth,” the students chortle.

Following the protest, college police, ordered by Evergreen’s president to stand down, told Mr. Weinstein they couldn’t guarantee his safety on campus. In the end, Mr. Weinstein held his biology class in a public park. Meantime, photographs and names of his students were circulated online. “Fire Bret” graffiti showed up on campus buildings. What was that about safe spaces?

Watching the way George Bridges, the president of Evergreen, has handled this situation put me in mind of a line from Allan Bloom’s book “The Closing of the American Mind.” Mr. Bloom was writing about administrators’ reaction to student radicals in the 1960s, but he might as well be writing about Evergreen: “A few students discovered that pompous teachers who catechized them about academic freedom could, with a little shove, be made into dancing bears.”

At a town hall meeting, Mr. Bridges described the protestors as “courageous” and expressed his gratitude for “this catalyst to expedite the work to which we are jointly committed.” Of course, there was also pablum about how “free speech must be fostered and encouraged.” But if that’s what Mr. Bridges really believes, why isn’t he doing everything in his power to protect a professor who exercised it and condemn the mob that tried to stifle him?

The Weinstein saga is just the latest installment in a series of similar instances of illiberalism on American campuses. In March, a planned speech had to be livestreamed when protestors blocked access to the auditorium.

Shutting down conservatives has become de rigueur. But now anti-free-speech activists are increasingly turning their ire on free-thinking progressives. Liberals shouldn’t cede the responsibility to defend free speech on college campuses to conservatives. After all, without free speech, what’s liberalism about?

*Bari Weiss is a staff editor in The Times opinion section.*

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/matt-driscoll/article153694734.html>

## Matt Driscoll: There's more to race protests at Evergreen than biology professor and viral videos

The (Tacoma) News Tribune

**June 1, 2017**

BY MATT DRISCOLL

My alma mater — The Evergreen State College in Olympia — has been in the news this week.

[Perhaps you've heard.](#)

This year's annual Day of Absence in April followed by tense demonstrations on Tuesday, May 23 and Wednesday, May 24, have raised eyebrows and the ire of many around the country.

What you make of all of this, to no great surprise, depends largely on where you fall on the political spectrum.

For some, including this admittedly biased columnist, charged protests and important conversations about race are nothing new at Evergreen. They come with the territory, like drum circles in Red Square and year-long poetry immersions.

But for some conservatives, what's transpired at Evergreen recently is a prime example of what they believe to be rampant and unchecked liberal intolerance.

Conservative media outlets large and small have had a field day with the Evergreen story, because it fits into their larger narrative about everything that's wrong on college campuses.

On Wednesday, [state Rep. Matt Manweller, R-Ellensburg, went so far as to suggest stripping state funds from the school and privatizing it.](#) In doing so, he followed in the footsteps of lawmakers skeptical of the school from its very beginnings, including Gov. Dixie Lee Ray, a Democrat, and former state Rep. James Kuehnle, a Republican from Spokane.

In an email to The News Tribune, Manweller said the state "can't continue to fund intolerance."

"And it's not just Evergreen," he continued. "They just happened to be the worst right now."

But making sense of what's gone on at Evergreen requires more nuance than that provided by YouTube clips, political grandstanding or a five-minute segment on Tucker Carlson's Fox News show, which aired under the header, "Campus Craziness."

So, first, a bit of background:

According to Evergreen spokesman Zach Powers, the school's annual Day of Absence started in the 1970s. Inspired by the Douglas Turner Ward play of the same name, the idea is "to address current issues surrounding race at Evergreen and beyond," Powers said.

As [coverage in Evergreen's newspaper](#), the Cooper Point Journal, makes clear, there are many "issues surrounding race" that are being grappled with on campus.

These issues largely involve the campus police, who Evergreen students have demanded be disarmed.

Meanwhile, other matters the college paper describes as related to "racism," and "anti-blackness" have been brought to the forefront, including the need for sensitivity and cultural competency training, the creation of an Equity Center and the need for a permanent staff position dedicated to supporting undocumented students.

Previous to this year, the Day of Absence has involved some students, faculty and staff of color voluntarily gathering off campus for activities related to that cause, while white students, staff and faculty were able to voluntarily participate in related activities on campus.

This year, Powers says, a request was made to change things up to allow participants of color to hold Day of Absence activities on campus, while white participants who chose to participate were asked to remain off campus.

"I think that switch was inspired by a desire to affirm the belonging of students, faculty and staff of color," Powers told me, while noting that, "Participation in the Day of Absence has always been and always will be entirely optional."

For perspective, Powers says that about 200 staff, faculty and students — out of roughly 4,800 at Evergreen — left campus to take part in this year's Day of Absence.

This year's approach to the annual event is where biology professor Bret Weinstein got involved. In emails that were eventually published by the Cooper Point Journal, Weinstein objected to white students, faculty and staff being asked to leave campus, calling it "a show of force, and an act of oppression in and of itself."

Which brings us to last week, when demonstrations at Evergreen went viral.

[As Lisa Pemberton of The Olympian reported](#), hundreds of students took part in a demonstration on the Wednesday, May 24. They filled the third floor of Evergreen's library building and surrounded president George Bridges' office. To say things got heated and that language not fit for publication here was used probably is an understatement.

Raw video from the previous day shows demonstrators angrily confronting Weinstein on campus. Some call for his immediate resignation. Others refer to him as a racist. None of it was particularly pretty nor constructive.

To take it a step farther, it was a bad look — a flawed approach, and an example of the kind of thing that makes it easy for naysayers to discredit entire movements. You can agree or disagree with Weinstein, but it's hard to see the point — or the good sense — in singling him out when the issues at Evergreen clearly go far beyond one biology professor and the rationale behind his objections to this year's Day of Absence events.

The showdown eventually earned Weinstein a seat on the Tucker Carlson show, which is not the outlet I'd choose to thoughtfully air my grievances, but whatever. That's his right.

So what's *really* going on at Evergreen?

Much like your reaction to this story, your take on that question probably depends on your political leanings.

That's been the case since the school's experimental creation as a bastion for liberals in what was then a logging town, and it will likely continue long after folks like Manweller find some other example of liberal intolerance to rail against.

But here's the truth this saga has laid bare: When it comes to issues of race, equality, and social justice, there's *a lot* going on at Evergreen — like so many college campuses across the country right now. Dealing with things of this nature is rarely easy, and rarely pretty, but always worth the work. For the most part, Evergreen deserves credit for rolling up its sleeves and attempting to do just that.

"Right now at Evergreen, we're focused on the four thousand students who are working hard to get through the quarter. Serving them and enabling them to reach their dream of a higher education is our top priority," the college said in a statement to The News Tribune.

"Freedom of expression and freedom from discrimination remain essential values at Evergreen, as are tolerance and respect."

The way the story has largely been portrayed this week — and jumped on by some seeking to score political points — doesn't come close to doing the situation justice.

And that is what's really unfortunate.

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<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/matt-driscoll/article153694734.html>

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/448232/defund-evergreen-state-college-student-mob-punishment>

June 2, 2017, National Review

## **Defund the Evergreen State College**

by Tiana Lowe

It's time for legislators to send a message to the illiberal student mob. In 1999, the Evergreen State College of Washington featured convicted cop-killer and Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal as its commencement speaker via a recording. Abu-Jamal was on death row and could not attend, yet the college eagerly gave him a platform to speak. Eighteen years later, Evergreen State refuses to protect the physical safety and free-speech rights of its own professors from the threats and aggression of student protesters with a sadly familiar illiberal bent.

In a shakeup of Evergreen's traditional Day of Absence — a day when black students leave campus to evoke the spirit of the Douglas Turner Ward play — student activists this year requested that all the campus's white members leave instead. Bret Weinstein, an evolutionary-biology professor and Bernie Sanders-supporting progressive, sent an e-mail to his fellow professors taking issue with the change-up on the grounds that while it made sense for students of color to willfully leave campus to “highlight their vital and underappreciated roles,” forcing every white member of campus to leave would be “an act of oppression in and of itself.”

Within days, vitriolic student mobs took over Weinstein's classroom, screaming at him, calling him a racist, and demanding his resignation. When videos of the mobs made it to YouTube, the protesters demanded that the videos be taken down. Rather than ignoring the disruption and demands of students — including “the immediate disarming of police services” and “mandatory sensitivity and cultural competency training for faculty, staff, administrators, and student employees” — Evergreen's president, George Bridges, actively enabled them, excusing protesters from homework, instituting said mandatory sensitivity training for all college employees, creating a new equity center, and launching “an extensive forensic investigation” to “seek criminal charges” against whoever posted the videos to YouTube. While local police chief

Stacy Brown told Weinstein to remain off campus as law enforcement could not guarantee his safety, Bridges lauded the protesters' "passion and courage."

In short, the threat of violence has suppressed open discourse at Evergreen State, and the administration has assisted the student mob every step of the way.

In a live episode of The Rubin Report yesterday, Weinstein told host Dave Rubin (the gay, liberal former Young Turk from Los Angeles who was accused of "Nazi sympathizing" by Evergreen State students on Twitter) that he did not personally blame Bridges for the mob fury, and that while the protesters have plunged Evergreen State into a crisis, the school itself is composed of "learning communities that really function."

Weinstein is wrong that Evergreen State is worth saving. Public funding constitutes 46 percent of Evergreen's annual revenue — \$55.2 million from state appropriations and \$32.3 million in state and federal grants. A public college that cannot defend the First Amendment or even the basic safety of its professors doesn't deserve a cent of the taxpayers' money.

Campus Reform reports today that Washington State legislators have finally reached the same conclusion. Lawmakers led by Republican representative Matt Manweller have introduced a bill to revoke \$24 million in annual funding from the school immediately. "These students and their administration are trying to undo the Civil Rights Movement," Manweller told Campus Reform. "They are trying to re-institute a Jim Crow approach to education that Americans rejected over 50 years ago."

If passed, the bill — which will be accompanied by a formal request to the state Human Rights Commission to investigate Evergreen's civil-rights infractions — would send a strong message to the increasingly violent anti-free-speech protesters who have recently shut down speaking events at public universities such as UC Berkeley and Cal State LA.

Washington's Democratic governor, Jay Inslee, just won reelection and would almost certainly veto any bill defunding Evergreen if it reached his desk. But with the razor-thin Republican majority in the state legislature currently imperiled by a looming special election, Washington still has an immediate window of opportunity to show other states how to defend the public's constitutional rights to free assembly and discourse. While the government cannot — and

should not — crack down on the actions of private universities, it has a legal and moral duty to uphold the Constitution in public spaces. Washington’s legislature ought to defund Evergreen State and bring the country one step closer to breaking the student mob’s chokehold on the American college campus.

Read more at: <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/448232/defund-evergreen-state-college-student-mob-punishment>

## Defund the Evergreen State College

National Review

June 2, 2017,

by Tiana Lowe

It's time for legislators to send a message to the illiberal student mob. In 1999, the Evergreen State College of Washington featured convicted cop-killer and Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal as its commencement speaker via a recording. Abu-Jamal was on death row and could not attend, yet the college eagerly gave him a platform to speak. Eighteen years later, Evergreen State refuses to protect the physical safety and free-speech rights of its own professors from the threats and aggression of student protesters with a sadly familiar illiberal bent.

In a shakeup of Evergreen's traditional Day of Absence — a day when black students leave campus to evoke the spirit of the Douglas Turner Ward play — student activists this year requested that all the campus's white members leave instead. Bret Weinstein, an evolutionary-biology professor and Bernie Sanders-supporting progressive, sent an e-mail to his fellow professors taking issue with the change-up on the grounds that while it made sense for students of color to willfully leave campus to “highlight their vital and underappreciated roles,” forcing every white member of campus to leave would be “an act of oppression in and of itself.”

Within days, vitriolic student mobs took over Weinstein's classroom, screaming at him, calling him a racist, and demanding his resignation. When videos of the mobs made it to YouTube, the protesters demanded that the videos be taken down. Rather than ignoring the disruption and demands of students — including “the immediate disarming of police services” and “mandatory sensitivity and cultural competency training for faculty, staff, administrators, and student employees” — Evergreen's president, George Bridges, actively enabled them, excusing protesters from homework, instituting said mandatory sensitivity training for all college employees, creating a new equity center, and launching “an extensive forensic investigation” to “seek criminal charges” against whoever posted the videos to YouTube. While local police chief Stacy Brown told Weinstein to remain off campus as law enforcement could not guarantee his safety, Bridges lauded the protesters' “passion and courage.”

In short, the threat of violence has suppressed open discourse at Evergreen State, and the administration has assisted the student mob every step of the way.

In a live episode of The Rubin Report yesterday, Weinstein told host Dave Rubin (the gay, liberal former Young Turk from Los Angeles who was accused of “Nazi sympathizing” by Evergreen State students on Twitter) that he did not personally blame Bridges for the mob fury, and that

while the protesters have plunged Evergreen State into a crisis, the school itself is composed of “learning communities that really function.”

Weinstein is wrong that Evergreen State is worth saving. Public funding constitutes 46 percent of Evergreen’s annual revenue — \$55.2 million from state appropriations and \$32.3 million in state and federal grants. A public college that cannot defend the First Amendment or even the basic safety of its professors doesn’t deserve a cent of the taxpayers’ money.

Campus Reform reports today that Washington State legislators have finally reached the same conclusion. Lawmakers led by Republican representative Matt Manweller have introduced a bill to revoke \$24 million in annual funding from the school immediately. “These students and their administration are trying to undo the Civil Rights Movement,” Manweller told Campus Reform. “They are trying to re-institute a Jim Crow approach to education that Americans rejected over 50 years ago.”

If passed, the bill — which will be accompanied by a formal request to the state Human Rights Commission to investigate Evergreen’s civil-rights infractions — would send a strong message to the increasingly violent anti-free-speech protesters who have recently shut down speaking events at public universities such as UC Berkeley and Cal State LA.

Washington’s Democratic governor, Jay Inslee, just won reelection and would almost certainly veto any bill defunding Evergreen if it reached his desk. But with the razor-thin Republican majority in the state legislature currently imperiled by a looming special election, Washington still has an immediate window of opportunity to show other states how to defend the public’s constitutional rights to free assembly and discourse. While the government cannot — and should not — crack down on the actions of private universities, it has a legal and moral duty to uphold the Constitution in public spaces. Washington’s legislature ought to defund Evergreen State and bring the country one step closer to breaking the student mob’s chokehold on the American college campus.

Read more at: <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/448232/defund-evergreen-state-college-student-mob-punishment>

<https://soundcloud.com/seattletimes/threat-to-evergreen-state-college>

## Caller threatens to ‘murder as many people as I can’ at Evergreen State College

Seattle Times

June 2, 2017,

***The caller on Thursday threatened to “execute as many people on the campus as I can get ahold of,” and referred to Olympia as a “communist scumbag town.” The caller’s identity remains unknown.***

By Seattle Times staff

Thurston County Communications has released a recording of the threatening call that [prompted the closure of The Evergreen State College on Thursday and Friday](#). The call, which was made about 10:30 a.m. Thursday to a business line at the Thurston County 911 dispatch center, was apparently made by a male.

“I’m on my way to Evergreen University (sic) now with a .44 Magnum,” the caller says in [audio obtained by KIRO 7](#). “I’m going to execute as many people on the campus as I can get ahold of. You have that, what’s going on here, you communist scumbag town? I’m going to murder as many people on that campus as I can. Just keep your eyes open, scumbag.”

The dispatcher then asks the caller how long the caller will be before he arrives, but the call abruptly ends at that point.

Alerted to the call by police, the college announced shortly after 11 a.m. Thursday that classes were canceled, citing a “direct threat to campus safety.” The closure was later extended through Friday.

The threat comes a week after hundreds of Evergreen students began protesting. The campus has experienced mounting racial tension that puts students of color at risk, the student group Expose Evergreen wrote in a news release last week.

Students cited several incidents, including an email from a professor who objected to the school’s “day of absence” in April.

In the past, students of color have left campus for one day to address racial issues, according to Evergreen. The event comes from Douglas Turner Ward’s play, where a town awakens to find that all black residents have disappeared.

This year, however, the format was reversed, with the day-of-absence program designed for faculty, staff and students of color held on campus. The program focusing on anti-racism work from a white — or majority culture — perspective was held off campus. Both programs were voluntary, Evergreen President George Bridges said in an interview Thursday.

Professor Bret Weinstein questioned the event in an email that was later made public.

“There is a huge difference between a group or coalition deciding to voluntarily absent themselves from a shared space in order to highlight their vital and underappreciated roles (the theme of the Douglas Turner Ward play Day of Absence, as well as the recent Women’s Day walkout), and a group or coalition encouraging another group to go away,” Weinstein wrote. “The first is a forceful call to consciousness which is, of course, crippling to the logic of oppression. The second is a show of force, and an act of oppression in and of itself.”

[http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/caller-to-evergreen-state-college-threatens-to-murder-as-many-people-as-i-can/?utm\\_source=The+Seattle+Times&utm\\_campaign=f54da6758f-Alert Listen to the threatening call that closed E&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5beb38b61e-f54da6758f-122634897](http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/caller-to-evergreen-state-college-threatens-to-murder-as-many-people-as-i-can/?utm_source=The+Seattle+Times&utm_campaign=f54da6758f-Alert+Listen+to+the+threatening+call+that+closed+E&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5beb38b61e-f54da6758f-122634897)

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/448258/evergreen-state-college-professors-turn-their-colleague-demand-censorship-and>

## Evergreen State College Professors Turn On Their Colleague, Demand Censorship and Discipline

National Review

**June 3, 2017**

By David French

Over on the home page, Tiana Lowe tells the tale of the campus craziness at the Evergreen State College of Washington. I'd encourage you to read the entire piece, but the basics are just as absurd as we've come to expect. Radical activists wanted to turn the school's traditional "Day of Absence" (a day where black students leave campus) into effectively a day of exclusion, demanding that white students and professors leave instead. Bret Weinstein, a progressive biology professor, wrote a polite and thoughtful letter objecting, and the response? Well, the response was insane. Here's Tiana describing what happened next:

Within days, vitriolic student mobs took over Weinstein's classroom, screaming at him, calling him a racist, and demanding his resignation. When videos of the mobs made it to YouTube, the protesters demanded that the videos be taken down. Rather than ignoring the disruption and demands of students — including "the immediate disarming of police services" and "mandatory sensitivity and cultural competency training for faculty, staff, administrators, and student employees" — Evergreen's president, George Bridges, actively enabled them, excusing protesters from homework, instituting said mandatory sensitivity training for all college employees, creating a new equity center, and launching "an extensive forensic investigation" to "seek criminal charges" against whoever posted the videos to YouTube. While local police chief Stacy Brown told Weinstein to remain off campus as law enforcement could not guarantee his safety, Bridges lauded the protesters' "passion and courage."

By the way, if you want to read the full list of the mob's demands, here they are:

We demand for the coordinator of the Trans & Queer Center to be permanently hired full time. Currently, they are temporarily hired and their contract ends in June.

We demand the creation of a permanent position that will support undocumented students. This position will have a budget that will create scholarships, housing, and protections.

We demand that the video created for Day of Absence and Day of Presence that was stolen by white supremacists and edited to expose and ridicule the students and staff be taken down by the administration this Friday.

We demand Bret Weinstein be suspended immediately without pay but all students receive full credit.

We demand an official statement on each of these demands from George Bridges that is divided up into 10 sections on this Friday May 26th, 2017.

We demand that no changes to The Student Code of Conduct be made without democratic student consent. We demand that Officer Timothy O'Dell be fired and suspended without pay while an investigation takes place.

We demand the immediate firing of Andrea Seabert Olsen, the Assistant to the VP for Student Conduct, from all Evergreen State College positions.

We demand the immediate disarming of Police Services and no expansion of police facilities or services at any point in the future.

We demand mandatory sensitivity and cultural competency training for faculty, staff, administrators, and student employees. We demand the creation of an Equity Center We demand for the coordinator of the Trans & Queer Center to be permanently hired full time. We demand the creation of a position that will support undocumented students.

Not to be outdone, a coalition of dozens of faculty and staff have signed their own letter, and it's one of the most craven academic documents I've ever read. It begins:

We acknowledge that all of us who have power within the institution share responsibility for the racist actions of others. Furthermore, those of us who are white bear a particularly large share of that responsibility.

We acknowledge that we have a great deal of work to do in order to honor and live up to the demands made by student leaders during last week's protests.

And lest you have any doubt about where these folks stand on the First Amendment, they commit themselves to:

Demonstrate accountability by pursuing a disciplinary investigation against Bret Weinstein according to guidelines in the Social Contract and Faculty Handbook. Weinstein has endangered faculty, staff, and students, making them targets of white supremacist backlash by promulgating misinformation in public emails, on national television, in news outlets, and on social media.

This is legally indefensible, of course, and morally repugnant. There is no effort to engage with Weinstein's ideas and no acknowledgment of the threats that have driven him off campus. Weinstein has shown unusual courage in continuing to speak out against threats and intimidation, but how long can he endure? How long can any reasonable person persevere in the face of similar threats and demands? Evergreen has reportedly faced serious threats of violence after the media covered Weinstein's story, but Weinstein is in no way responsible for these threats. Will his radical colleagues apply this standard to their ideological friends? Do they hold them responsible for the threats that drove Weinstein off campus? Of course not.

Instead, this is exactly how even "peaceful" professors and protesters actively collaborate with the violent fringe. Rather than unequivocally standing up for the fundamental liberties of a colleague while condemning all threats of violence, they blame him for the misdeeds of others, ignore the misconduct of their allies, and then urge their university to violate the law. I've said it before, and I'll say it again. Unless and until campus administrators have the courage to use the law to protect liberty, they'll reward violence, increase campus volatility, and set the stage

for a truly ugly (and perhaps deadly) incident.

Read more at: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/448258/evergreen-state-college-professors-turn-their-colleague-demand-censorship-and>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/03/opinion/sunday/bruni-campus-inquisitions-evergreen-state.html?action=click&contentCollection=Opinion&module=RelatedCoverage&region=EndOfArticle&pgtype=article>

## These Campus Inquisitions Must Stop

New York Times

June 3, 2017

By Frank Bruni

Racism pervades our country. Students who have roiled college campuses from coast to coast have that exactly right.

But we're never going to make the progress that we need to if they hurl the word "racist" as reflexively and indiscriminately as some of them do, in a frenzy of righteousness aimed at gagging speakers and strangling debate.

That's a mechanism for shaming, not a strategy for change. It mesmerizes all. It converts none.

I'm thinking of the recent ugliness at Evergreen State College, in Olympia, Wash., which echoed too many other incidents at too many other schools. A white biology professor named Bret Weinstein who identifies himself as a political progressive infuriated many students there, for two principal reasons. One, he objected openly to a proposal that there be an "equity justification/explanation" for all new faculty hires. His stated worry was that race would take precedence over all other considerations.

Two, he challenged a change to an annual event at Evergreen called the Day of Absence. Typically, it invited students and faculty of color to leave campus for talks elsewhere about diversity, sensitivity and related issues.

This year, in the wake of Donald Trump's election, organizers suggested that white students and faculty be the ones to depart instead.

Weinstein said in an email to an event organizer that he saw "a huge difference between a group or coalition deciding to voluntarily absent themselves from a shared space in order to highlight their vital and underappreciated roles" and that same group "encouraging another group to go away."

The first is a forceful call to consciousness," he wrote. "The second is a show of force, and an act of oppression in and of itself." He added that "on a college campus, one's right to speak -- or to be -- must never be based on skin color."

It was a reasonable perspective and a prompt for discussion, not fury. It drew fury nonetheless. Dozens of students interrupted one of his classes, screaming at him about racism, white privilege and even white supremacy. The campus police chief advised him, for his own safety, to steer clear of school grounds until tempers cooled. Students demanded that he and two other college employees whom they deemed insensitive to minorities be fired.

“Hey hey, ho ho, these racist teachers have got to go!” they chanted. When the college’s president, George Bridges, met with them, several of them pelted him with profanity and ordered him to shut up.

Evergreen is a famously liberal school. The protests there, like those at other colleges, didn’t involve a majority of students. They were informed by more than Weinstein’s words, including concerns that campus police officers were singling out black students and that Evergreen as a whole wasn’t responsive to minorities.

Weinstein, moreover, took quickly to the part of lightning rod. He has repeatedly characterized the Day of Absence as coercive, though it didn’t seem to be; Evergreen’s president, Bridges, told me in a telephone interview on Thursday that it flat-out wasn’t. And in a video of Weinstein’s exchange with protesters outside his classroom, he proclaims, “History could pivot on this hallway right now.” It’s Olympia, Professor Weinstein, not Iwo Jima.

But that doesn’t diminish the significance of another bit of that video. Confronted with a loud barrage of questions, he asks the students, “Would you like to hear the answer or not?”

“No!” several shout. And there you have it. They’re not conducting an interrogation. They’re staging an inquisition.

Watching it, I flashed back to Yale two years ago and that awful moment, also captured on video, when one of the dozens of students encircling Nicholas Christakis, a professor there, shrieked at him: “You should not sleep at night! You are disgusting!”

He and his wife, Erika, were masters at one of Yale’s residential colleges, and she had circulated an email in which she raised questions about the university’s caution against any Halloween costumes that might be seen as examples of cultural appropriation or hurtful stereotyping.

“American universities were once a safe space not only for maturation but also for a certain regressive, or even transgressive, experience,” she wrote. “Increasingly, it seems, they have become places of censure and prohibition. And the censure and prohibition come from above, not from yourselves! Are we all O.K. with this transfer of power? Have we lost faith in young people’s capacity -- in your capacity - to exercise self-censure?”

“Talk to each other,” she added. “Free speech and the ability to tolerate offense are the hallmarks of a free and open society.”

Agree or disagree with her, she was teeing up precisely the kind of contest of ideas that higher education should be devoted to. And she did so, if you read the whole of her email, in a considered, respectful fashion.

No matter: She was pushing back at something -- the costume guideline -- that was draped in the garb of racial sensitivity. And that made her, ipso facto, an enemy of illumination and agent of hate.

She and her husband were driven from their roles in the residential college, though he still teaches at Yale. He posted several sympathetic tweets last week about Weinstein’s vilification. In one he wrote that his wife “spent her whole career” working with “marginalized populations” and has a “deep, abiding humanity.”

“But still they came for her,” he added.

Were the Yale students merely fueled by anger or were they high on it? What about those at Evergreen and other colleges?

Like plenty of adults across the political spectrum, they use slurs in lieu of arguments, looking for catharsis rather than constructive engagement. They ratchet up their language to a degree that weakens its currency for direr circumstances. And they undermine their goals -- *our* goals -- by pushing away good-hearted allies and handing ammunition to the very people who itch to dismiss them.

Right-wing media have had a field day with Evergreen, but not because they've faked a story. No, the story was given to them in ribbons and bows. Evergreen's campus was shut down on Thursday and Friday following an anonymous telephone call threatening violence. Its exact relationship to the protests was unclear. Bridges has acceded to several of the protesters' demands regarding a more equitable campus -- and has thanked and praised them for their passion -- but refused to fire Weinstein and two other designated offenders on their list.

I asked Bridges about the epithets hung on Weinstein. He said that such terms are being deployed too readily and casually. "Using the word 'racist' halts the conversation," he said. "It just ends it. It doesn't explore the beliefs, the values, the behaviors that comprise individuals.

Isn't he, too, being characterized as racist? "Of course," he said. "It's just the way discourse goes these days."

*Of course?* What a sad state of affairs. And what a retreat from anything that we could really call "discourse."

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## Colleges, free speech, and GOP fecklessness

Canada Free Press

June 5, 2017



By [BombThrowers](#) -- David Hogberg

A few weeks ago Republicans in the Wisconsin legislature put forward a [bill](#) that would expel any student at a state university who disrupted or prevented speeches on campus. After the courage that Gov. Scott Walker and other Republicans displayed in the face of [unrelenting protests](#) in 2011, it is no surprise that they have the cojones to stand up to the little fascists that dominate our colleges and universities.



Now GOP lawmakers in Washington State are considering [revoking](#) \$24 million in funding to Evergreen State College after the campus administration there supported the thuggish antics of left-wing students.

It is good to see some Republican legislators finally taking action to defend free speech on college and university campuses. But it is far from enough.

There have been plenty of opportunities for Republicans to take advantage of the threats to free speech on college and university campuses

There have been plenty of opportunities for Republicans to take advantage of the threats to free speech on college and university campuses. For example, after protesters at Berkeley [shut down](#) Milo Yiannopoulos's scheduled speech, President Trump signaled that he was ready to take action. (A useful summary of the violence [may be found here](#).)

He tweeted:



Back in early May, the University of Arizona introduced a [plan](#) to pay students \$10 an hour to be “social justice advocates,” whose responsibilities would include “reporting bias incidents” to the administration. The university faced a backlash from conservatives on the Internet, but that only resulted in administrators deciding to change the job title. Nor did it stop UCLA from going forward with a [similar plan](#).

And the response of Republican legislators in D.C. and Arizona to all of this?

Crickets....

It is hard to understand their apathy. Taking legislative action to stop what is happening on colleges and universities would be good for the nation and good for the Republican Party.

It is clear that colleges and universities represent one of the greatest threats to free speech in the United States. From shutting down Milo and Ann Coulter to violence directed at Charles Murray, to the Antifa, to speech codes and sensitivity training, the totalitarian left is increasingly running the show at our institutions of higher education. If Congress and state legislatures were to start cutting off funding to those schools that violated free speech, it would be the first step in turning those institutions into beacons of open discussion and debate.

It would almost certainly boost the GOP. Fighting for freedom of speech and against university elites would not only help Republicans with their base, it could attract moderates who are horrified at the intolerance on display in places like Berkeley, Arizona, Evergreen, and Middlebury. Fighting university fascists certainly wouldn’t hurt Republicans. University towns are not, after all, magnets for GOP voters. For example, Pima County, where the University of Arizona is located, voted for Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump 54 percent to 40 percent. Overall, Arizona went for Trump, 49 percent to 45 percent.

It seems like a safe win-win for Republicans, so why aren’t they making a big issue out of this? The only reason that makes any sense is Republican lawmakers don’t want loud, obnoxious social justice snowflakes showing up to protest at their legislative offices.

Is the GOP really that feckless? It is easy to fear that such a question is rhetorical.

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*[Bombthrowers](#) is a blog about politics and the war for the hearts and minds of Americans from a conservative viewpoint.*

*In line with our name, we do not hold back. We have a take-no-prisoners attitude when it comes to fighting for conservative principles. The Left doesn't play nice, and that's why they've been winning. It's time for conservatives to rise up and turn the tide.*

*We're not afraid to take on anyone, especially the Washington Establishment—Republican or Democrat.*

*Bombthrowers is a project supported by the [Capital Research Center](#). Its editor-in-chief is Matthew Vadum.*

<http://canadafreepress.com/article/colleges-free-speech-and-gop-fecklessness>

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## Evergreen State College reopens after threat information

*Evergreen State College in Olympia did not hold classes for the second consecutive day, cancelled by a threat. A state lawmaker puts the blame on administrators and says the school should stop receiving public funding.*

KING-TV

June 5, 2017

By Bryce Newberry and Drew Mikkelsen



Evergreen State College in Olympia reopened Monday after reviewing new threat information received over the weekend.

The campus reopened at 3 p.m., and classes and activities will resume.

The college had announced it would be closed Monday and delivered the following message late Sunday evening:

*The Evergreen State College's Olympia campus will be closed and on suspended operations Monday, June 5, while law enforcement officials review new external threat information received over the weekend.*

*"Suspended operations" means no classes on Monday, including evening. Evergreen staff will be present to provide campus services to resident students and ensure their safety. Law enforcement is active on campus at all hours.*

*A determination on when to fully re-open campus will be made as soon as possible.*

*"Even though we had planned to be back in class on Monday, it's important to give law enforcement an opportunity to evaluate their new information," said Sandra Kaiser, vice president for college relations at Evergreen.*

*"Public safety at Evergreen is our top priority," Sandra Kaiser, the college's vice president for college relations, said in a statement. "As we return to normal operations, local law enforcement remains extremely vigilant, and we will respond quickly if the situation changes."*

The campus initially closed last Thursday after an unknown person made a threat of "campus violence" to Thurston County officials. The college's president, George Bridges, made the decision to close campus with advice from law enforcement.

Thurston County released a copy of the phone call. A male caller told a dispatcher: "I'm on my way to Evergreen University now with a .44 Magnum. I'm going to execute as many people on that campus as I can get a hold of. You have that? What's going on here? You communist, scumbag town? I'm going to murder as many people on that campus as I can. Just keep your eyes open you scumbag."

A spokesperson said there was no known connection to [last week's race-based protests](#). Demonstrations held last Tuesday and Wednesday involved around 200 students.

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## The Youths At Midway Versus the Mob at Evergreen State

National Review

**June 5, 2017**

by Michael Auslin

Yesterday marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, one of the greatest military victories in the annals of warfare. An American navy that had been battered since Pearl Harbor, with its only three serviceable aircraft carriers and no battleships, faced and defeated a Japanese navy force of four carriers and two battleships that controlled almost all of the western Pacific Ocean. The story has been well told about the luck of the Americans who were in the right place at the right time because of Admiral Chester Nimitz's decision to gamble on partially decrypted Japanese communications, and who, despite having lost entire squadrons of torpedo bombers in the early phase of the battle, wound up with unplanned coordinated attacks on the Japanese fleet, which in some cases was in the midst of changing ordnance on its planes, eventually sinking all four carriers, a blow from which the Japanese navy never fully recovered.

Admirals Nimitz, Raymond Spruance, and Frank Jack Fletcher are rightly celebrated, along with code breaker Commander Joseph Rochefort and aerial attack planner Captain Miles Browning. But it is no cliché to remember that the true heroes that day were the young men who manned the ships and took to the skies to face the formidable and battle-tested Japanese. Of those young Americans, 307 died on that day, losing the carrier Yorktown and somewhere around 150 aircraft (while killing 3,057 Japanese). Those men, we should not forget, were mostly in their 20s and 30s, and had already been in battle for months, while many of them would go on to fight for three more years. Dozens of those young men climbed into their fragile bombers that day in June 1942, knowing the odds against them and that they may well not return.

Which brings us to today's 20-somethings, many of whom serve honorably in our armed services, some fighting today's wars for the rest of us; hold down steady jobs; contribute to their communities; and quietly raise families.

But not all.

Over the past several years, universities and colleges around the country have been held hostage by mobs of students and outside agitators, childish, emotionally unhinged, pathetically self-absorbed, spoiled, and violent. Young adults with no responsibilities and coddled by an educational system that feeds every imagined grievance while holding them to no standards, they are the shock troops of the new infantile elite. If they truly believe what they say, then we can only conclude that for a segment of the U.S. population, cognitive processes and the interpretation of reality are literally different from what they are for the rest of humanity.

How else can one interpret the scenes most recently out of Evergreen State College (admirably critiqued by David and others), where the campus has been taken over by student mobs because one white professor rightly refused to evacuate campus for a day of racial grievance-mongering (only whites were demanded to leave). The quisling faculty at Evergreen State united to condemn their colleague, Bret Weinstein, and the president of the college, George Bridges, not only caved in to all the protestors' puerile demands, but allowed himself to be publicly emasculated by profanity-spewing, hyper-dramatic, temper-tantrum-throwing undergraduates.

Most notable on this Midway anniversary, however, are the screamed comments by a number of students that "they feel threatened every day" (at 4:25 in this edited video), that no one can imagine the courage it took them to walk into the college classroom where the public show trial of the president was occurring, or how they "want to cry . . . I'm shaking in my boots" (at 3:25 of this edited video).

For those unaware, Evergreen State College, has an acceptance rate of 97 percent, a retention rate of 78 percent, and an enrollment rate of 31 percent. It has just over 4,000 students and is located in Olympia, Washington. According to its latest statistics, there were a total of 20 burglaries on campus in 2015, no murders or manslaughter, and no aggravated assaults (there were five forcible sex offenses and six stalking incidents reported). One wonders just what terrifies and so threatens these fragile students.

Maybe the two cannot be compared; maybe I'm ungenerous, unfeeling, and unprogressive to do so, but I can't help but think about the young pilots of Midway, 75 years ago, and the pathetic, alienated, ignorant students of today. For those who think it takes the courage of an Achilles to walk into a safe, protected classroom where they can with impunity scream obscenities at their elders, I can only imagine how they would have felt taking off into the clear

dawn off Midway Island, flying directly into the guns of people who truly wanted to kill them and were lethally trained to do so.

The longer the adults in higher education and society acquiesce in the infantilization of today's college students, the weaker this country will become. The snowflakes' demands won't stop at the campus gates nor after graduation. They have seen that intimidation and violence get their goals achieved, and they will bring it into the workplace next. And when we may need them, or their successors, some day to defend the society that gives them these rights that they so little understand and so cavalierly abuse, then we'll find out that they are helpless children, hateful of their country and unable to accept an adult's role, all because they imagined that somebody hurt their feelings. May the heroes of Midway continue to rest in peace.

Read more at: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/448269/imagine-if-todays-student-victims-had-real-enemies-fight>

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<http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/editorials/the-evergreen-state-college-no-safety-no-learning-no-future/>

## The Evergreen State College: No safety, no learning, no future

Seattle Times

June 5, 2017

***The Evergreen State College's internal chaos is now intertwined with falling enrollment.***

By [Seattle Times editorial board](#)

*The Seattle Times*

THE next few days are critical for the future of The Evergreen State College.

The public state college near Olympia has become a national caricature of intolerant campus liberalism in both The New York Times and Fox News. At least one professor has been harangued and classes disrupted by shouting mobs of students accusing the famously progressive campus of “systemic racism.”

That coverage apparently has incited anonymous threats of mass murder, resulting in the campus being closed for three days. In the critical last week of school, students have been deprived of learning by extremes on the left and right.

But Evergreen faces a deeper, and more long-term threat. It is the only state four-year higher education institution to see enrollment drop steeply since 2011 despite wide-open admission standards. At about 4,080 students, it is about 300 students short of the Legislature’s funded enrollment target.

The two problems are now entwined. Evergreen President George Bridges and his administration need to assure future students and their parents that academics come first — and not acquiesce to the 200-or-so student protesters at the expense of the 4,000-student campus. Without safety, there’s no learning, and without learning, Evergreen will wither into irrelevance.

Evergreen has a long history of campus protests since it was founded in the 1970s as an experimental college. But protests this year have been focused inward and unusually aggressive — with students hijacking events beginning with the convocation in September and a board of regents meeting. They took over the administration offices last month, and Bridges patiently heard them out for hours with campus police calling every half-hour to check on his welfare. Most recently, they took over professor Bret Weinstein’s class because he questioned calls for white faculty and students to leave campus for a day.

Evergreen's board of trustees in a statement criticized "the lack of tolerance and respect displayed by a few." Bridges, in a meeting with The Seattle Times editorial board Monday, described a flawed student discipline process that left little apparent accountability for those incidents. Bridges said that flawed process was being updated, with discipline imposed if student conduct crosses a line that Bridges himself described: "To what extent do actions of others impede the education of students."

The situation at Evergreen is an amplified version of a story playing out at campuses across the state, including recently at Western Washington University, Seattle University and the University of Washington — and across the nation.

Since the corrosive 2016 presidential election, Americans increasingly comprise a nation with citizens sealed in ideological bubbles; college campuses are often the most hermetically sealed of bubbles. When Weinstein, the professor, asked a yelling mob of students if they wanted to hear his answer, they shouted "No!"

For Evergreen, the chaos of the 2016-17 school year should become a case study in the First Amendment and the aching need for better civil discourse. The funky, nontraditional college has a unique role in the state higher-education system. But for it to survive, Evergreen must impose consequences when a student protest hijacks other students' learning.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/evergreen-moves-graduation-ceremony-to-tacoma/>

## Evergreen moves graduation ceremony to Tacoma

Seattle Times

June 6, 2017

***The Evergreen State College will hold its June 16 graduation ceremony at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma.***



By [Katherine Long](#)

*Seattle Times higher education reporter*

In the wake of a [threat to campus last week](#) that caused classes to be canceled for a few days, The Evergreen State College will hold its graduation ceremony at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma, rather than in the college's traditional location in its outdoor plaza known as Red Square.

The stadium location was chosen because it is secure and close to Olympia, according to Evergreen President George Bridges in an email sent to students and faculty.

"The stadium is a great, central venue, which is secure and offers plenty of seating and parking to accommodate our community," Bridges wrote. Graduation will be held June 16.

Evergreen was rocked by student protests in May that drew widespread media attention to issues involving race and free speech. Last Thursday, a phoned-in threat to campus forced administrators to evacuate the Olympia campus, and the school remained closed on Friday and for much of the day Monday. It returned to a regular schedule Tuesday.

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# Evergreen State College president 'immensely disappointed' by protesters

KING-TV

June 12, 2017

*Protesters who put The Evergreen State College in the national spotlight recently could be punished. The college president says he was "immensely disappointed" with their actions and has ordered an investigation.*

By Drew Mikkelsen



Students involved in on-campus protests at The Evergreen State College could be punished, according to college president Dr. George Bridges.

In May, dozens of protesters interrupted a class taught by Bret Weinstein, a biology teacher.

The students called for Weinstein's resignation after he criticized moves to change campus policies involving race.

He also refused to participate in an April event where white students and faculty members were encouraged to leave campus.

Following the protest, Weinstein held classes off-campus. Campus police told him they could not guarantee his safety at the college.

"I was immensely disappointed with the students who obstructed his class," Bridges said. "Those actions are indefensible."

Bridges said the school is investigating the students involved.

The day after the Weinstein protests, a larger group of activists, as many as 200 students, took over the president's office to raise concerns about Weinstein's actions and the proposed changes to school policy.

Bridges refused to have campus police remove the students.

"I felt very comfortable. I never felt unsafe. It was a matter of listening to their concerns," Bridges said.

Videos of the protests quickly circulated on social media and Weinstein wrote an editorial for the Wall Street Journal and appeared on the Fox News Channel.

A week after the protests, someone called Thurston County officials and said they were going to the college and “execute” people, causing the school to shut down for three days.

“It was all about safety,” Bridges said.

He said law enforcement recommended he cancel classes.

That caller has not been identified, but investigators told Bridges the threat was later determined not to be viable.

Graduation is this Friday, but for the first time in school history, it won’t be held on campus.

Bridges said he decided to hold it at Tacoma’s Cheney Stadium out of safety concerns.

“We still get some harassment in messages and we want to ensure everyone feels perfectly safe so we can celebrate the accomplishments of our students,” Bridges said.

While the protests and threats have been a distraction, Bridges said demonstrations have always been a part of The Evergreen State College.

“We embrace challenges,” Bridges said. “We embrace different issues and tackle them through discourse and debate and that’s a part of who we are.”

He said when the debate focused on racism and free speech, the activism “took a turn that we did not expect.”

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## Evergreen responsibilities, rights out of balance

The Olympian

June 14, 2017

BY ED POLE

In my first piece, I talked about the responsibility of government officials to balance their power to protect the peaceful exercise of more active rights, such as speech and assembly, and the enjoyment of more passive rights, such as property and person. I related this to some local issues. Unfortunately, we have recently been presented with yet another exemplar of imbalance in this area. The Evergreen State College was the scene of protests and demonstrations in which some of participants engaged in intimidation and threats. Indeed, the disturbances generated blowback and ultimately led to a shutdown of the campus. Fortunately, this did not seem to result in outright violence but at the expense of some individual rights.

I note a continuing degeneration of decorum and reason in colleges and universities both locally and across the nation. In many cases the result has been property destruction and personal injuries. The same scenario is playing out on the political stage, although not as advanced. Yet. A group of individuals at Evergreen feel free to occupy public spaces, intimidate those with whom they disagree, and require retaliation against them. This includes requiring silence from those they oppose, demanding removal of their rivals from their jobs for disagreeing with them, and removal of others from campus based on race. The reaction of the administration was to sequester the campus police in their office and "suggest" to a target of the protest that he is not safe on campus.

Evergreen is a remarkably unique institution. It has a distinct style of instruction that allows a wide range of learning styles. In fact, it seems to model the British system where students "read" a course of study rather than primarily attend classes. It requires a certain type of student who is given to independent study. The teaching style of Evergreen requires an environment in which students are allowed to explore a wide range of attitudes and opinions. Intimidation and retaliation seriously affects this capability. It negatively affects all campuses and other public institutions.

The use of force is at the base of all government. This is true from the freest democracy to the most tyrannical dictatorship. It is hard to accept but it is an indisputable, observable fact. In the

US, we, the People, have ceded to government, the exclusive power to initiate force. Yet, government is not the only source of force. Individuals and smaller groups also engage in its use. As I indicated previously, force is not limited to physical actions. It also includes intimidation, bullying, and trespass. Government is supposed to control and limit the use of force while protecting everyone's rights.

This requires balance and judgment by those who administer our institutions. It is a hard task to perform properly. Unfortunately, the balance has been lost. Some of those in charge locally have allowed a group of individuals to take control and use intimidation and violence to achieve their ends. It is time to protect all the rights of everyone. If this is not done, it is likely we will see further polarization and violent conflict between groups on campus, locally, and nationally.

Some of the actions of the protesters might be a form of kidnapping. At least, the Evergreen Student Conduct Code forbids obstruction or disruption of campus activities. It also forbids physical abuse of another, including threats. It forbids harmful behavior that diminishes or interferes with the ability of an employee to engage in their work duties. Clearly, this conduct has occurred without consequence. Indeed, the authorities abandoned the field to the protesters. A cursory examination of past events clearly reveal the consequences of this kind of inaction.

Finally, changes to the Evergreen State College "Social Contract" and "Student conduct code" are part of the demands of the protesters. They require input to changes. These documents are actually parts of Title 174 of the Washington Administrative Code. This code may only be changed as allowed by RCW Chapter 34.05, the Administrative Procedure Act. The act outlines a strict protocol including open hearings and input by all stakeholders, including the public. The content cannot be determined by any single group. All those concerned about TESC may wish to make their voices heard in the proper way in the proper forum.

*Ed Pole is an engineer, retired from IBM and Intel, and resides in Lacey. He is a member of the 2017 Olympian Board of Contributors. Contact him at [ejp.olyboc@gmail.com](mailto:ejp.olyboc@gmail.com).*

<http://www.theolympian.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/article156171899.html>

<http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/the-evergreen-state-college-president-in-a-divided-country-our-campus-will-remain-united/>

## The Evergreen State College president: In a divided country, our campus will remain united

Seattle Times

June 14, 2017



Students leave The Evergreen State College campus after a threat prompted a student alert and evacuation on June 1. (Tony Overman/AP)

*Although activism on campus was only part of the story, it was distorted, amplified and endlessly repeated via social media and cable news. As we took steps to de-escalate conflict on campus, Twitter feeds blew up with misinformation.*

By [George S. Bridges](#)

Special to The Times

THESE are critical days for the future of The Evergreen State College as we build a stronger campus against the backdrop of a fragmented nation.

With its 50-year-old tradition of vigorous debate, freethinking faculty and dedicated focus on students, Evergreen has educated more than 40,000 graduates who thrive and prosper.

They are the measure of our success. As business leaders, Oscar-winning filmmakers, members of Congress, scientists, physicians, artists, entrepreneurs, and public servants, they make their mark in Washington and across the country.

And yet, we must change.

Over recent weeks, Evergreen's normally quiet, wooded 1,000-acre campus in Olympia has been rocked by loud protests, sit-ins and abusive speech. Unlike protests in the 1970s, however, there was no tear gas, nor were there injuries or arrests.

Evergreen has always been a place that takes on difficult issues in sometimes raucous fashion. The activism this year was different, though. As campus groups debated racism and free speech, there was a level of fear, emotion and invective we've never seen here.

Although activism on campus was only part of the story, it was distorted, amplified and endlessly repeated via social media and cable news. As we took steps to de-escalate conflict on campus, Twitter feeds blew up with misinformation.

This small liberal arts college was then hit with a tsunami of hateful harassment targeted at staff, students and faculty. Anxiety rose, and there were confrontations on campus. Threats to Evergreen from outside the college compelled us to suspend classes twice on advice from law enforcement.

Students have completed their courses, and we have finished the school year. On June 16 we will celebrate our 1,000 new graduates, holding commencement off campus for the first time ever, to ensure security.

We are focused on our future as a college community, as a catalyst for businesses, jobs and prosperity in the region, and as an integral part of the state's higher education system. How do we change and adapt to thrive in this era of national polarization?

Some steps we must take are clear. To preserve freedom from discrimination and of expression for all at Evergreen, we must have greater accountability and consequences for those who would deny those rights to others.

Freedom of speech belongs to all. Freedom to threaten does not. I am talking with Evergreen faculty and students, alumni, legislators and others about how we can strengthen and clarify the rules for conduct.

Since the disruptions, which took place on campus in late May, students are being investigated for violations of the student-conduct code, and their cases are currently under review. If they are found to have violated the code, sanctions range from a written reprimand to expulsion.

We also cannot rely solely on the lean public-safety presence that has been the tradition on campuses in our state. The safety of all students, faculty and staff must be paramount if we are to succeed at our core job: teaching and learning.

Our hardworking campus law enforcement officers need training to ensure their continued ability to protect all. I will be asking the Legislature to grant us additional resources to meet the modern challenges of campus safety.

Finally, we must ourselves change. We must all listen to each other to understand, not just to reject. We also need a diversity of people, attitudes, orientations, politics and views on campus.

Problems of racism and inequity are real and must be discussed in a campus environment that offers security for all.

After hearing student concerns, I have increased the college's equal opportunity staffer to full-time, boosted annual training for campus police officers, expanded a new equity and multicultural center, and raised the staffing budget for multicultural advising services. Evergreen will soon hire its first vice president for equity and inclusion, a college leadership position now common on campuses across the U.S.

At the heart of Evergreen's future is sustaining a visionary model of learning established in the 1970s, which focuses on understanding big issues from different perspectives and with complex ideas. This Evergreen model, emulated by colleges around the nation, continues to attract veterans, community-college transfer students, nontraditional students, and those who are the first in their families to attend college. Their success as graduates is proof the model works.

As we work to strengthen our campus, Evergreen will renew its commitment to what we do best: Help students acquire an extraordinary college education that prepares them to lead, excel and prosper.

George S. Bridges

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# Evergreen State College suspends operations due to 'potential disruptions'

KOMO-TV

June 15, 2017, by KOMO Staff



OLYMPIA, Wash. - Evergreen State College in Olympia says it plans to suspend operations Thursday beginning at 3 p.m.

Access to campus will be limited after 3:15 p.m., Zach Powers, a college spokesperson says.

The decision was made "in light of potential disruption around planned demonstrations by off-campus organizations," Powers says.

It appears both protests and counter-protests are planned.

A conservative group, [Patriot Prayer](#), plans a free speech rally at the campus at 5:30 p.m. [A counter-demonstration](#) by a group known as the Evergreen Anti-Fascist Community Defense Network is supposed to begin on campus at 3 p.m.

Troopers with the Washington State Patrol will be on campus working with Evergreen Police Services to ensure campus safety.

KOMO News has calls out to the college to get more information.

The college was shut down for three days in early June [due to phoned in threats](#).

The college says someone called the Thurston County Communications Center claiming to be armed and on the way to campus. The call was made from an unknown telephone number to the communications center's regular business phone line and not their 911 lines.

Police searched and found no one posing a threat Powers said the closure was "a precaution ... due to a serious threat against the college."

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<http://komonews.com/news/local/one-arrested-after-demonstrators-clash-at-evergreen-state-college>

## One arrested after pro & anti-Trump demonstrators clash at Evergreen State College

KOMO News

Thursday, June 15th 2017

OLYMPIA, Wash. - One person was arrested and at least two cars damaged, after demonstrators from a rally and competing protest clashed on the Evergreen State College campus in Olympia Thursday evening, according to the State Patrol.

The conservative, pro-President Trump group, [Patriot Prayer](#), held a free speech rally at the same time as a counter-protest organised by the [Evergreen Anti-Fascist Community](#) Defense Network.

The [college shut down operations](#) at 3:00 p.m. as a precaution, because of potential problems between the two groups.

"We gotta set a vibe that we want to reach out, we want to talk, we want to have conversations," said Joey Gibson who organized the Patriot Prayer group. "Basically, we just want our point of view heard."

"I believe in peaceful protests, me as an African America male in this institution. I don't feel valued because of the way people are treated on campus," said Student Nick Jeffreys.

"They just threw a can at me. I just went in there to try and shake some hands, try and talk to people," said Gibson. "Not one person shook my hand. In fact, they just sprayed a bunch of stuff on me and a guy threw a can and hit me in the face."

Tensions between both groups were high but State Patrol Troopers in riot gear, and officers from other law enforcement departments maintained a heavy presence to make sure things didn't get out of hand.

Troopers said the man was arrested and taken into custody for disorderly conduct. He was accused of having a knife and a group of demonstrators tackled him to the ground, then escorted him to police.

No word yet on any major injuries, but there was some property damage. At least two cars had their tires slashed following the demonstrations. One of those cars belonged to the Gibson.

"There's a culture of hatred brewing here and we just want to stand up to it," he said.

The college [cancelled classes for three days](#) earlier this month following threats of violence and campus confrontations.

"We're trying to do our best to make this a safe place for all students who come here," said Evergreen State College professor Jon Davies.

School officials moved Friday's graduation ceremony from campus to Cheney Stadium in Tacoma for safety reasons.

State lawmakers plan to meet on Tuesday to talk about campus safety at Evergreen State.

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/16/us/evergreen-state-protests.html?mtrref=undefined&mtrref=www.nytimes.com&\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/16/us/evergreen-state-protests.html?mtrref=undefined&mtrref=www.nytimes.com&_r=0)

## A Campus Argument Goes Viral. Now the College Is Under Siege.

New York Times

June 16, 2017, By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

OLYMPIA, Wash. -- It started with a suggestion that white students and professors leave campus for a day, a twist on a tradition of black students voluntarily doing the same.

A professor objected, and his argument with a loud and profane group of protesters outside his classroom soon rocketed across the internet.

On Friday, more than three weeks later, Evergreen State College had to hold its commencement 30 miles from campus, at a rented baseball stadium where everyone had to pass through metal detectors.

In between, Evergreen, a small public college in Olympia along the Puget Sound, found itself on the front line of the national discontent over race, speech and political disagreement, becoming a magnet for extremes on the left and the right.

After the dispute gained national exposure -- amplified by the professor's appearance on Fox News, his op-ed in The Wall Street Journal, and right-leaning websites -- heaping derision on their newest college target -- the professor, Bret Weinstein, said he had to stay away from campus for his own safety and move his family into hiding.

Student protesters briefly occupied the president's office to press their complaints of racism on campus. In one encounter, the president, George Bridges, was recorded meekly complying with a demand not to use hand gestures when he spoke because they were threatening.

The campus has received threats of violence via social media and calls to the county sheriff and 911 that forced administrators to lock down the campus for three weekdays in a row. The college had another lockdown on Thursday, as dozens of professed free-speech defenders tangled with anarchists who were waiting for them at Red Square, the campus plaza named for its red-brick walkways.

"I thought I'd be speaking from Red Square where graduation is traditionally held, and then as the alt-right backlash hit us, I wondered if we'd have graduation at all," Anne Fischel, a documentary filmmaker and Evergreen professor, said in her commencement speech on Friday. "No one should see this graduation as a return to normalcy, to the way things were before. For one thing, the lives of some of our community members have been threatened, and they can't be here today."

Since the presidential election in November, colleges from Middlebury to Auburn to the University of California, Berkeley have become swept up in a running battle over free speech and politics. But the conflict at Evergreen has been deeply distressing to many students and faculty members who see their college as a little utopia that has produced such creative alumni as Matt Groening, the creator of "The Simpsons," and Macklemore, the hip-hop artist.

Students at Evergreen, founded in the progressive fervor of the 1960s, have no majors or grades and study in small groups, taking interdisciplinary classes where a marine biologist, for instance, might team up with a philosophy professor and a music professor.

“There is a tradition of trying to work things out,” said Ruth Hayes, a professor of animation. Referring to Professor Weinstein, she echoed the feelings of a number of her colleagues: “That he took this public I just feel like is a breach of trust.”

What also sets the Evergreen turmoil apart is that it began not with a controversy-courting guest speaker like Ann Coulter or Milo Yiannopoulos, but a Bernie Sanders-backing biology professor who has been a fixture at the college for 15 years.

The conflict stems from the college’s Day of Absence, a tradition in which black people leave the campus to show what the place would be like without them. This year, organizers suggested the reverse: that white people who wanted to participate would leave while nonwhites stayed, and both groups would attend workshops to, as the email announcement put it, “explore issues of race, equity, allyship, inclusion and privilege.”

In an email to his colleagues, Professor Weinstein, who is white, said that when black people decided to leave, it made sense as “a forceful call to consciousness.” But to ask white people to leave, he wrote, “is a show of force, and an act of oppression in and of itself.”

“I would encourage others to put phenotype aside and reject this new formulation,” he wrote.

What followed can be viewed by anyone with a smartphone: a protest outside his classroom in which students derided his “racist” opinions and called him “useless,” preceded by an expletive; his appearance on Tucker Carlson’s Fox News show; and scenes of students and professors arguing with other professors and their college president.

“Yes, they were rude,” the president, Mr. Bridges, said in an interview about the meeting in which he put down his hands. “What mattered was de-escalating the anger.”

And though students occupied his office for a couple of hours one afternoon, he said he never felt threatened.

“I was hired to be a change agent,” he said. His mission, he said, was to ask, “How do we address the equity gaps here?”

Professor Weinstein, who declined to be interviewed, has been lying low. But he is quite visible online, with a growing Twitter audience and a new blog offering his subscribers insights into “evolution, civilization and intolerance” for a nominal monthly fee.

On the other side, Naima Lowe, a media professor who has opposed him, and Rashida Love, the director of Evergreen’s First Peoples Multicultural Advising Services, who sent the email announcing the format of the Day of Absence, have also made themselves scarce, after being mercilessly ridiculed online.

There is a bigger context to the dispute, faculty members say. Overall enrollment at Evergreen has been declining since 2009, while minority enrollment, which now stands around 29 percent, is rising.

Some faculty members have said the college has not been adequately serving minority students, and an “equity council” developed a plan to address those issues. Professor Weinstein was among those who objected to parts of the plan. He saw its call for an “equity justification/explanation” for each potential hire as code for racial preference.

Ms. Lowe, who is black, said that he was misinterpreting the proposal and that its goal was to hire people with the right skills and experience to relate to “marginalized communities,” regardless of their race. As for the Day of Absence, held in April, organizers have said that it was voluntary and that no one implied that all white people should leave.

But the time for academic word-parsing has passed; the final days of the term were marked by riot police officers, barricades and metal detectors. Strange alliances have formed. On Thursday, a group calling itself Patriot Prayer, a right-leaning band of 60 or 70 people from off campus waving American flags and one showing Pepe the Frog, a symbol of the alt-right movement, was joined for a while by two students.

One of them, Tamara Lindner, said she had been a student of Mr. Weinstein’s wife, also a biology professor at Evergreen, and wanted to support his right to free speech. The other, Colin Trobough, said he was distressed at the way Evergreen had been portrayed. “I love Evergreen,” he told the Patriots gathered in the traffic circle.

The group marched onto campus, where about 200 people awaited them: anarchists and “anti-fascists” looking like graphic-novel ninjas, with black scarves hiding their faces and hoods covering their hair, flanked by aging professors in rumpled rain slickers.

The Patriots’ leader, Joey Gibson, strolled into the crowd of ninjas, where he was sprayed with Silly String, hit in the head with a can of it and then attacked with what may have been pepper spray before state police officers in riot gear restored order.

The college spent \$100,000 to rent the minor-league stadium in Tacoma for the commencement on Friday. “I’m very glad we’re all here together,” Mr. Bridges said in his address, acknowledging the “fierce and disturbing” events of recent weeks.

Ellis Paguirigan, a 1991 Evergreen graduate whose daughter, Melia, was graduating and planned to go into ocean conservation, said they were both disappointed in Professor Weinstein’s stance. Melia had Professor Weinstein in her freshman year and liked his class, Mr. Paguirigan said. But, he added, “my daughter is a person of color -- she kind of takes it personal.”

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<http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article156014384.html>

## Weinstein: 'I have been portrayed as the reason that Evergreen is in crisis'

The Olympian

June 13, 2017 5:17 PM

By Lisa Pemberton

[lpemberton@theolympian.com](mailto:lpemberton@theolympian.com)

Bret Weinstein, the professor at the heart of a [heated controversy over alleged racism](#) at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, said he's relocated his family for their safety and he's unsure about his future at the public liberal arts college.

"The college has never acknowledged the danger that they put us in, and therefore I have no way of knowing whether it's safe for me return," Weinstein said on Fox News' "Tucker Carlson Tonight" show Monday. "Their assurances that it is safe don't mean anything, not that they've offered them."

It's unknown if the interview was pre-taped; the show's is described as "a live hour of spirited debate and powerful reporting each night," on the Fox News website.

College spokesman Zach Powers said Weinstein already has returned to his job, and that he's aware that the college has beefed up its security measures.

"I understand faculty member Bret Weinstein returned to campus just over a week ago to teach in his normally assigned classroom," Powers told The Olympian on Tuesday afternoon. "He has been notified by Evergreen Police Services of additional law enforcement present on campus."

Weinstein said Tuesday that is not true.

"If college administrators say I was on campus last week, they are lying," he told The Olympian. "I left campus when it was evacuated on the morning of June 1. I held my afternoon class in a downtown park that day, and left the state with my family that evening. We have not been in Washington since, and some administrators know that."

In recent weeks, Weinstein has been vocal through Twitter and some news outlets, criticizing the way the administrators have handled [student unrest over racial tensions](#) at the 4,000-student college.

“Remarkable that [George Bridges is still President of Evergreen](#). Means the Board of Trustees and @GovInslee (Gov. Jay Inslee) don’t know the truth,” Weinstein posted on Twitter on June 1.

“Not only did Bridges allow the collapse of @EvergreenStCol (Evergreen), he directly caused it,” the two-part post continued. “And now he is obscuring the truth, putting us all at risk.”

Weinstein teaches biology at Evergreen. He told Carlson he has duties to finish the year out, and no alternative employment.

“I’ve received tremendous support outside of the college, and I’ve received quite a bit of support privately within the college,” Weinstein said. “But publicly only one other professor has come forward to say he supports my position.”

That professor, Mike Paros, sent a letter of support for Weinstein to his lawmaker Rep. Jim Walsh (R-Aberdeen).

“Most of the country at least either supports what Bret Weinstein did, or is concerned about Evergreen as a college where free inquiry can occur,” [Paros told The Olympian](#).

[A group of Evergreen faculty members](#) told The Olympian editorial board last week that they believe Bridges should investigate Weinstein’s actions, saying he helped escalate racial tension on campus by taking his views to Fox News, The Joe Rogan Experience and elsewhere. They said that some faculty members have gotten death threats, and are meeting with their classes off-campus, [due to safety concerns](#).

“I don’t know how I can go back and teach given that I have been portrayed as the reason that Evergreen is in crisis,” Weinstein told Carlson.

Racial tensions have been simmering on the campus for months. Weinstein protested an [annual diversity event at the college known as Day of Absence](#), after its format was changed.

Traditionally, students of color leave campus for the day to demonstrate their contributions, while white students remain on campus to have discussions about diversity. This year, it was suggested that white students could leave campus for the day and talk about race issues, and minority students could stay on campus for diversity events.

“White people were asked to leave the campus — it was not that we were forced to leave but we were asked to leave, and it was made very clear that leaving was an act of allyship with people of color and therefore not leaving, if you were white, meant that you were not an ally,” Weinstein told Carlson.

College officials have said the event was voluntary and typically involves about 200 staff and students.

Lisa Pemberton: [360-754-5433](tel:360-754-5433), [@Lisa Pemberton](https://www.instagram.com/Lisa_Pemberton)

Read more here:

<http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article156014384.html#storylink=cpy>

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<http://www.weeklystandard.com/article/2008407>

## The Appalling Protests at Evergreen State College

THE WEEKLY STANDARD

June 19, 2017

*At Evergreen State College, the revolution will be televised. And it already has been, thanks to the smartphone.*

Jun 09, 2017 | By [Charlotte Allen](#)

The Weekly Standard



Art credit: Dave Malan

At Evergreen State College, the revolution *will* be televised. And it already has been, thanks to the smartphone.

Since May 23, the 4,089-student public liberal arts college in Olympia, Washington, has been embroiled in what the media euphemistically call "student protests" over perceived racial grievances. At Evergreen State that has actually meant: invading a professor's class to taunt him with charges of racism; occupying the library and the college president's office while the campus police, ordered to stand down, barricade themselves in their headquarters; delivering

F-bombs, derision, and assorted demands—firing the police chief, confiscating the guns of the rest of the police, setting up mandatory race-oriented "cultural competency" training for the faculty, excusing the protesters from their end-of-term assignments, and providing free gumbo for a radical potluck—to the cornered president, George Bridges; and creating such a threatening atmosphere for the professor in question, evolutionary biologist Bret Weinstein (another target of the firing demands), that he had to hold his class on May 25 in a public park in downtown Olympia. If a photo posted on Instagram is to be taken at face value, it has also meant wielding baseball bats and posing ominously on the balconies of student apartments.

The videos, made on the phones of Evergreen State students, were ubiquitous as the activities of the 200 or so protesters culminated in a literal shutdown of the college (Evergreen State suspended operations from the afternoon of June 1 to the afternoon of June 5, even though it had been scheduled to hold the last of its spring-term classes on those days, after someone made a 911 call threatening to shoot up the campus with a .44 Magnum). The first of the videos featured the May 23 invasion of Weinstein's classroom at 9:30 a.m. by about 50 angry students provoked by what they characterized as Weinstein's racism. He had objected to a college-sponsored Day of Absence on April 10, when white students, faculty, and staff had been encouraged to make themselves scarce on campus. This video was excised from YouTube for violating the site's "harassment and bullying" policy after protesters complained it had been selectively edited to make them look like harassers and bullies. Fortunately for the curious, the much-copied video is available in whole elsewhere on the Internet (the website Heterodox Academy claims to offer a 12-minute "unedited" version) and in snippets on YouTube of a 6-minute interview that Weinstein gave to Fox News's Tucker Carlson on May 25.

The 12-minute video shows the husky, bearded Weinstein, clad in an outdoorsy-biology-prof black T-shirt, trying patiently to engage the students who have shut down his classroom in a "dialectic," as he called it. Weinstein later described himself to Carlson as a "deeply progressive person" who had supported socialist-leaning Bernie Sanders in the 2016 presidential primaries. But the Evergreen students captured in the May 23 video were having nothing to do with Weinstein's attempts to lift the conversation to a high-minded, fancy-word "dialectic" plane:

"This is *not* a discussion—you lost that one! You said racist s—! Now apologize!"

Weinstein responded: "I did not!"

"Stop telling people of color they're f— useless! *You're* useless!"

"Yeah, resign!" screamed another student.

"Resign!" screamed yet another.

"Resign!" screamed yet another.

"I'm not resigning."

"Hey hey! Ho ho! Bret Weinstein has got to go!"

The video followed the students yelling the chant in unison as they tried to block the campus police (probably called in by one of Weinstein's biology students) shielding Weinstein as he exited the building.

The funniest—and also the saddest—of the videos might be called the Homework Video, or perhaps the Gumbo Video. Viewed more than 86,000 times on YouTube, it recorded the events of a May 24 meeting with Bridges in his office, which the protesters had invaded and taken over, blocking the exits while some of them checked their phones and helped themselves to what appeared to be university-supplied pizza as they sat at the college president's conference table. The 66-year-old Bridges, balding, pudgy, bespectacled, and given to sporting bow ties on dressy occasions, had the misfortune of visually calling to mind Bobby Trippe, the adipose city slicker raped by hillbillies in John Boorman's 1972 backwoods horror flick *Deliverance*. Subconsciously—or perhaps archetypally, since none was alive when *Deliverance* was ringing up the cash registers during the early 1970s—the Evergreen protesters similarly seemed to smell blood with the eager-to-please and ultimately hapless Bridges. He had already had an encounter with them the day before, when they stormed his office at 4:30 in the afternoon not long after their successful disruption of Weinstein's biology class. Their greeting, also captured in a video, had been: "F— you, George, we don't want to hear a God-damned thing you have to

say." One protester had demanded that Bridges "disavow white supremacy." Bridges had meekly agreed: "I will disavow white supremacy."

Bridges assumed the presidency of Evergreen State only in the fall of 2015, after serving for 10 years as president of Whitman College, a small, well-regarded liberal-arts institution serving 1,500 students in Walla Walla, Washington. A sociologist by training, he specialized academically in studying racial disparities in the sentencing of criminal defendants, thus burnishing his liberal credentials. Those credentials received another touch of polish with his marriage to former congressional aide Kari Tupper, who had helped end the long-running political career of Sen. Brock Adams, maintaining that the Washington Democrat had sexually assaulted her in 1987. (Adams, who died in 2004, was never criminally charged but in 1992 abruptly declined to seek reelection after eight other women accused him of sexual misconduct.) Tupper for several years taught women's studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, where her husband had been a professor and dean. In August 2016 Bridges wrote an op-ed for the *Seattle Times* responding to a tough-love letter by University of Chicago dean of students John Ellison that had warned incoming freshman that "trigger warnings" and "safe spaces" for the easily psychically bruised wouldn't be forthcoming at Chicago. Bridges countered that the University of Chicago was simply "tone deaf to the academic and developmental needs of many students."

The Evergreen State protesters at the May 24 meeting, munching their pizza slices while a jacketless, white-shirted Bridges stood abjectly before them holding a multipage list of their written demands, clearly regarded such solicitude for their sensibilities as so much contemptible weakness. The meeting opened with this exchange between a female protester and Bridges:

"All of us are students and have homework and projects and things due. Have you sent an email out to your faculty letting them know? What's been done about that?"

"It's the first thing I'll do. I have not done it yet, I will do it right now."

"So they need to be told that these assignments won't be done on time, and we don't need to be penalized for that."

Jeers and general derision followed, as Bridges tried to shush them with his free hand and make himself heard.

"Y'all can't keep doing these pointing fingers," a female student reprimanded him, after he had apologized and meekly placed the offending hand in his pants pocket.

A few minutes later Bridges pleaded over the din to let him please adjourn the meeting so he could read the list of demands:

"You have to give me some privacy, folks. . . . I have claustrophobia."

That psychological condition might have resonated with the high achievers at Whitman. It went over at Evergreen State like an IED in Mosul. A T-shirted student stood up holding a plastic-cup drink and waved her hand sarcastically: "People of color have to work in threatening environments every day! Welcome! Welcome! Get to work!"

The meeting ended with the Gumbo Potluck Demand. A male student standing behind Bridges informed him that if he didn't respond to the occupying students' list by 5 p.m. that Friday, May 26, "you need to pay for a potluck."

Bridges was amenable to that order, too: "We'll be paying for a potluck anyway," he replied.

"We want gumbo!" another student shouted.

A knot of students on the other side of the table turned that into a chant: "We want gumbo!"

"Made by my mama!" shouted the young man standing behind Bridges.

Evergreen State, founded in 1967 in the state capital, Olympia, a waterfront city of about 50,000 at the bottom of Puget Sound, 60 miles south of Seattle, was part of a 1960s wave of brand-new college campuses, many of them publicly funded, that aimed to serve an expanding baby boom population and also to experiment with nontraditional models of post-secondary education. (The best-known of these colleges is the University of California, Santa Cruz, founded in 1965.) Many of the nontraditional colleges, including Evergreen, quickly became known as "hippie colleges" because they tended, as they still do, to attract a distinctly nontraditional student body. Evergreen, for example, proudly bills itself as "progressive" on its website. There are no letter grades (professors submit narrative evaluations of their students' proficiency), and there are no courses—or majors—as the words are generally understood. Evergreen undergraduates, who make up the vast majority of its students, instead sign up for year-long, multi-credit, interdisciplinary programs that typically include a range of hard-science, social-science, and humanities fields.

Evergreen's likely most famous graduate is Matt Groening (class of 1977), creator of *The Simpsons*. The college's likely most famous nongraduate was Rachel Corrie, accidentally bulldozed to death in 2003 in an Israeli military operation in Gaza during the Second Intifada. (Corrie had been in Gaza as part of a senior-year independent study project and had joined a protest group that positioned its members in front of bulldozers destroying houses that the Israelis said were used as cover to shoot at their troops and smuggle arms.)

Evergreen's commencement speaker in 1999 was Mumia Abu-Jamal, convicted in 1982 of murdering a Philadelphia police officer. Mumia, on death row at the time (prosecutors have since agreed to let him serve a life term without parole), delivered his 13-minute speech from behind bars.

The school's motto is—no joke—*Omnia Extares*: Let it all hang out. Some students have clearly thrived in the campus's do-your-own-thing atmosphere, on its thousand-acre waterfront campus that combines towering eponymous fir trees with concrete-overloaded Brutalist architecture. A curriculum that mixes empirical and deductive-reasoning fields such as math and science with the humanities can be exhilarating, even if the "humanities" these days largely mean excursions into arcane ideologized "theory." Evergreen gets high marks from *U.S. News* for its teaching (small classes, high engagement), and its marine-biology offerings are considered first-rate. But as Evergreen students have complained online, too many of their loosely supervised classmates simply coast along majoring in drugs and tattoos. Evergreen has a 98 percent acceptance rate of applicants (in contrast to the 45 percent acceptance rate at the

state's flagship University of Washington), and 20 to 30 percent of its freshmen either drop out or transfer after the first year—perhaps because they seek a more focused curriculum in these tight-economy, post-2008 crash days when the hiring market can be dicey, or perhaps because they decide that they were never college material in the first place (in-state tuition is relatively cheap at \$6,500 per year, but it's not free). Enrollment at Evergreen has been steadily dropping since a record 4,891 students in 2009. The college website sounds a note of desperation as it tries to persuade applicants that better-paying job titles than barista might await them: "Graduates of The Evergreen State College do well in graduate schools all over the country and in all sorts of careers. You can find our alumni everywhere!"

Oddly enough, despite its blue-chip progressive credentials, Evergreen State has been marked by quite a bit of racial tension. Perhaps because it's mostly relatively affluent white people who have the financial wherewithal to identify as hippies, the undergraduate student population at Evergreen (according to its own figures, using the Department of Education's ethnic categories) is 67 percent non-Hispanic white. About 29 percent of Evergreen students describe themselves as "students of color." And of that group, about 5 percent categorize themselves as non-Hispanic black or African-American. Still, before Bridges arrived on the Evergreen campus, a highly popular African American, Thomas. L. Purce, had held the presidency from 2000 until his retirement in 2015, embarking on an ambitious building program and other capital improvements to the campus, whose 1960s infrastructure (judging from photos) hasn't aged particularly well.

Nonetheless, the demographic statistics at Evergreen have been just divergent enough from those of the U.S. population as a whole—63 percent white, 13 percent black, and 17 percent Hispanic (only 10 percent of Evergreen's students are Hispanics of all races, according to Education Department criteria)—to trigger the formation of a campus faculty-staff group that titled itself the "Equity and Inclusion Council." The council aimed not just at matching the percentages more exactly but at ensuring the retention of minority students, who seemed to be dropping out of Evergreen at a higher rate than their white classmates. It hardly mattered that the Pacific Northwest is overwhelmingly Nordic, thanks to massive Scandinavian immigration around the turn of the 20th century, and that a slight overrepresentation of white students on a state-school campus might therefore be expected. The word "equity" is a newish term of art in the lexicon of race-based activism. One website defines it as "the condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. . . . This includes elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them." In other words, "equity" is all about ensuring not just equality of opportunity for ethnic minorities but equality of academic outcome: a one-to-one correlation between their demographic representation in the

population as a whole and their representation on the evaluation sheets that Evergreen professors prepare for their students.

On November 11, 2016, slightly more than a year into Bridges' presidency at Evergreen, the Equity and Inclusion Council released a 39-page report. By this time, the report indicated, the ranks of the ethnic-minority students had been supplemented with students identifying as "LGBTQQ" and students with "reported disabilities." An appendix suggested that the committee's efforts had the blessing of Bridges. The report outlined an elaborate—and if the council got its way, mandatory—step-by-step plan for the 2016-2017 academic year and beyond. The goal was to shift Evergreen from a "diversity agenda"—the standard-issue multiculturalism and affirmative action promoted on most college campuses—to an "equity agenda," in which equality of student outcomes would be the top priority. All campus activities would be subsumed into this quest, which would include some version of "mandatory anti-oppression training for the faculty" (a condition that Evergreen professors, progressive though they might be, rejected by majority vote); the creation of a new administrative position for a "VP for Equity and Inclusion," who would be independently budgeted and operate autonomously; "equity"-based curriculum planning and assessment of student learning; and a requirement that all future faculty hires be subjected to an "equity justification." In a particularly Maoist-sounding rhetorical fillip, the report referred numerous times to the "Six Expectations" for closing a perceived "equity gap" between the currently "underserved" minority student population at Evergreen and their presumed fully served white, heterosexual, and nondisabled classmates.

Insanely totalitarian as the November 11 report might strike anyone who hasn't spent time on a college campus recently, there were apparently few objections from the Evergreen faculty, possibly because few had actually read the report, and possibly because the professors feared being branded racists. One professor who did object was Bret Weinstein, who, according to reports (Weinstein did not respond to requests for an interview), used the faculty email listserv at Evergreen to wage a war of words with council members, accusing them of authoritarianism (the report called for a high level of staff intrusion into the contents of professors' courses) and intimidation. He argued that the equality of outcomes that the council was pushing was a "discredited concept, failing on both logical and historical grounds," as he put it in a May 30 op-ed for the *Wall Street Journal*. Weinstein linked the council's obsession with equity to the pervasive influence of Critical Race Theory—the notion that most social structures are instruments of white supremacy—on the nonscience fields of study at Evergreen.

It was not the first time that Weinstein had publicly taken a lone-wolf ideological stance in a racially tinged campus dispute.

In 1987, while a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania, he had written a sarcastic op-ed for the student newspaper, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, deploring a campus fraternity's having hired two strippers in order to attract potential pledges to a rush party (school rules forbade the serving of alcohol). The strippers were black, and the white fraternity brothers had treated them in a "disgusting and degrading" fashion that involved smearing them with ketchup and penetrating them with cucumbers. In a May 30 interview with political commentator Dave Rubin, Weinstein said that although the fraternity was suspended over the incident, he received so much harassment, including death threats, from fraternity members that he briefly dropped out of Penn.

Although the Evergreen faculty never adopted or took any other action on the Equity and Inclusion Council's report, some of the council's members, impatient at the professors' inaction, seemed to be quietly incorporating its recommendations into campus life at Evergreen—while Bridges began a search for what seemed to be exactly the plenipotentiary "Vice President/Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion" that the council had recommended.

One member of the council was Rashida Love, director of Evergreen's First Peoples Multicultural Advising Services office, which offers support to minority students. In March 2017, Love announced at an Evergreen faculty meeting that there were going to be drastic changes to the annual Day of Absence (scheduled for April 12), an Evergreen tradition dating to the 1970s, when ethnic-minority professors, students, and employees remained off-campus for a day in order to remind the white majority how crucial their presence was to the college's operation. The Day of Absence had been inspired by a 1965 play of that name by Douglas Turner Ward in which blacks absented themselves from a town whose whites subsequently discovered how much they depended on the blacks' services. A Day of Presence (scheduled for April 14 this year) typically followed the Day of Absence, marked by workshops and other events focused on race relations.

This year, however, Love informed the professors, it would be whites who would be "encouraged" (as it was reported) to stay off campus on the Day of Absence while "people of color" held their own "community-building" workshops at various campus venues (there would be no classes that day). Whites were free to attend an off-campus day-long consciousness-raising event of their own, with this ironic touch: They had to bring their own "potluck" lunches to the function, while the people of color on campus received a lunch provided by the college.

On March 15 Weinstein shot off a polite but strongly worded email to Love in which he pointed out that although she and the First Peoples office had used the language of "choices" in setting the new Day of Absence policy, "encouraging" whites to stay away—in contrast to the past practice in which minorities had voluntarily absented themselves—amounted to a "show of force, an act of oppression in and of itself." He added: "You may take this letter as a formal protest of this year's structure, and you may assume that I will be on campus on the Day of Absence. . . . On a college campus, one's right to speak—or to be—must never be based on skin color."

Meanwhile there had been a series of low-level student disruptions at Evergreen from the very beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year. Those protests apparently stemmed from minority students' long-simmering dissatisfaction with the way they believed Evergreen was treating them—dissatisfaction that stretched back even to the African-American Purce's presidency. The faculty's refusal to undergo mandatory equity training rankled in particular. One Evergreen student told *Olympian* columnist Matt Driscoll: "There has been meeting after meeting with the administration. For years students of color, trans and queer students and other minorities have been asking, then demanding, for mandatory equity training for staff and faculty. . . . What you are seeing is months and years of being ignored." Alleged biased treatment by the campus police seemed to be another sore point.

At Evergreen's opening convocation on September 21, 2016, two students seized the stage carrying a sign that said,

"Evergreen cashes diversity checks but doesn't care about blacks." On January 11, 2017, the same two students plus several others armed with noisemakers interrupted the swearing-in of new campus police chief Stacy Brown, seized the microphone from another campus official, and began chanting, "F— cops!" The two students were investigated and possibly disciplined.

But what seems to have triggered the most recent fracas was a May 10 post on Evergreen's Class of 2020 Facebook page by a black student at Evergreen who goes only by the name Jamil. Jamil's post called for "PoC" (people of color) to sign up for a year-long class program titled "Mediaworks: Re/Presenting Power and Difference" so as to make the program "majority Black/Brown." Another student, Kaí-Avé Douvia, who called himself a "person of color" but who is not black, accused Jamil of reverse racism and put up his own post substituting the word "white" for "PoC" and "black/brown." Several days of vociferous student debate and back-and-forth charges of racism ensued, culminating on the night of May 14 in a confrontation between Douvia and Jamil, who was accompanied by another black student, Timeko Williams Jr. Douvia called the campus police afterwards to say that he felt "unsafe," and the police detained Jamil

and Williams for questioning for several hours before releasing the two early on the morning of May 15.

This led a group of students to call for the firing of Brown, the police chief, and to send a news release to the *Olympian* complaining that "black trans disabled students" were being harassed by campus police. They also broke into an interview with a candidate for the newly formed equity and diversity position to voice their opinions about racism at Evergreen. On May 18, Wendy Endress, Evergreen's vice president of student affairs, issued an email inviting students to a "conversation" about the recent events to be hosted on May 19 by George Bridges. The protesters organized a boycott of the meeting, sending out a press release stating: "We have already voiced our experiences over this year and Wendy and George have made it obvious they don't care about how recent events are affecting the student body. They are making an effort to diminish our voices and take control of a situation they refused to acknowledge until it began to tarnish their reputation."

How Weinstein, whose email objecting to the Day of Absence was already more than two months into the past, became the chief target of the students four days later can be only a matter of conjecture (emails to Bridges and Evergreen spokesman Zach Powers went unanswered). A video posted on YouTube and elsewhere that seems to have been made at 3:40 p.m. on May 23—hours after Weinstein's class had been invaded—shows an enraged Naima Lowe, a black professor of film studies and a member of the Equity and Inclusion Council, hurling F-bombs, defending the protesters, and telling some puzzled-looking white faculty members huddling outside the library that the campus unrest was their own fault for ignoring the council's recommendations. "This is about THEIR needs!" Lowe yells. "And that Equity Council handed you—handed you—a way to do this EASILY!"

Bret Weinstein's brother Eric, a Harvard-Ph.D. mathematician who is managing director of Thiel Capital, posted on his Twitter account a Facebook post purportedly from Lowe asking: "Could some white women at Evergreen come and collect [Bret Weinstein's wife and Evergreen anthropology professor] Heather Heying's racist a—."

By the time 5 p.m., Friday, May 26, rolled around—the deadline the angry students had given to President Bridges—the protesters had broadened their chant to "Hey hey! Ho ho! These racist teachers have got to go!" and put together an additional list of candidates for firing by Evergreen. A meeting took place in the campus's Longhouse, a handsome wooden "cultural center" surrounded by forest and bedecked with indigenous art that is Evergreen's nod to the days when cis-het white men—and any other white people—were unknown in the Puget Sound

region. The opening sentence of Bridges's statement in response to the students' demands set the tone and the tenor for everything that followed:

"I'm George Bridges, I use he/him pronouns."

What followed was Evergreen-predictable. Apologies to the Native Americans whose "land was stolen and on which the college stands"? Check. That "mandatory sensitivity and cultural competency training" for faculty? Check and check. "We commit to annual mandatory training for all faculty beginning in fall 2017," Bridges said. And there was more: the creation of an "equity center." A "Trans & Queer Center coordinator." A "position that will support undocumented students." And more free food, after the meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

The students didn't get everything they asked for. Bridges declined a demand for "the immediate disarming of police services and no expansion of police facilities or services at any point in the future"—although he did promise to implement "training" for the campus cops that would include "addressing anti-black racism, de-escalation, minimizing use of force, serving trans and queer students," and so forth. Nor did Bridges accede to this: "We demand Bret Weinstein be suspended immediately without pay but all students receive full credit" (the "full credit" was a nice touch). Bridges's refusal to fire him (or any other Evergreen employees targeted on the student list) may be cold comfort to Weinstein, however, because Bridges also declared there would be a "full investigation" of "any complaint of discrimination"—and such complaints look highly likely in the future. Dozens of Weinstein's fellow faculty members at Evergreen have already signed an open letter asking the college to pursue a "disciplinary investigation against Bret Weinstein" simply for publicizing his predicament: "Weinstein has endangered faculty, staff, and students, making them targets of white supremacist backlash by promulgating misinformation in public emails, on national television, in news outlets, and on social media."

The Evergreen protesters ought to have walked away grinning from ear to ear—although in fact some of them, obviously regarding Bridges as a prize pushover, were already agitating for more concessions, as well as needling him for failing to confiscate the cops' guns as they had demanded. A few days later, according to a report from a faculty member, Evergreen administrators sent out email notices warning students and others about the likelihood of violent off-campus white supremacists fired up by the Weinstein controversy coming to campus. It was a warning that segued directly into the 911 call about an armed campus intruder that closed down Evergreen from June 1-5. Some students started patrolling the campus with baseball bats, hunting for white supremacists and frightening other students fearful of reprisals

because they hadn't gone along with the earlier protests. Sharon Goodman, Evergreen's director of residential and dining services, felt obliged to send around a memo on June 4 reminding the bat brigade that "the use of bats or similar instruments is not productive."

But this was a revolution that was televised, and hundreds of thousands of people have viewed those videos. Even perennial ultra-liberals such as *New York Times* columnist Frank Bruni and *Huffington Post* contributor Matt Teitelbaum have been shocked at the spectacle of a professor held prisoner by students at his own college and taunted for racism for disagreeing with faculty colleagues. Evergreen State is already having trouble attracting students—and it might take a lesson from the University of Missouri, which is shutting down dorms and laying off staff in the wake of a 23 percent freshman enrollment decline after widely publicized student-protest belligerence in 2015. Rep. Matt Manweller, a Republican state legislator from rural eastern Washington, has already introduced a bill that would ratchet down taxpayer funding for Evergreen, essentially requiring it to privatize. The bill has little chance of passing in the Democratic-controlled state, but it's an ominous sign.

The best perspective on Evergreen State might come from Jason Brennan, a philosophy professor at Georgetown University's business school who previously taught at Brown, the "hippie school" of the Ivy League.

In an email Brennan observed that "administrators have a financial incentive to impose ideological requirements and the like on faculty.

Consider: Faculty and administrators have to compete with one another for power, prestige, status, and money. \$20 million spent on faculty is \$20 million not spent on administrators. Administrators can help win the battle for money and power by A) inviting external regulation and accreditation of faculty, B) imposing strict and overly broad speech, harassment, and ideological codes, and C) requiring faculty syllabi to fit administrators' commitments. Thanks to these sorts of things, what we're seeing now is an inversion. In the past, administrators were there to serve the faculty and students. But now administrators have far more power, and more and more faculty are there to serve the administration."

Still, Brennan wrote: "In the late '90s, we saw a wave of behavior like this: hyper-vigilant language policing, shouting down speakers, and the like. Remember the movie *PCU* making fun of it all? But there was a big public backlash, including from the liberal left, and it died down for a decade. Now there's a resurgence, and there seems to be a backlash again."

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